



Fall in love with your bathroom all over again

Fall Sale

15% Off Your Entire Project¹

Re-Bath Houston is celebrating Fall with our biggest sale of the year!

It's true; with our Fall Sale, you can get the same great Re-Bath products and services for 15% less. Specifically, we'll design a beautiful, functional space just for you and install the quality products to finish the look. Plus, our licensed, insured Re-Bath teams complete projects in days, not weeks.

So, wherever you are in the greater Houston area, whether it's a complete bathroom remodel or, updating your shower or tub, now's the perfect time.

Call **281.724.5204** today to **schedule your FREE in-home consultation**; you'll be glad you did!

- Complete Bathroom Remodeling
- Tub & Shower Updates
- Aging & Accessibility Solutions

281.724.5204
REBATH.COM



¹ Offer available only in the greater Houston area. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contract for a free bathroom evaluation must be made and documented between 10/3/20 and 12/31/20 with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. Re-Bath retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Re-Bath retailers do not assist with, counsel, or negotiate financing, other than providing customers an introduction to lenders interested in financing. "Re-Bath" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Re-Bath Corporation. ©2020 Re-Bath Corporation. See limited warranty or ask your design consultant for details.

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

ELECTION 2020

Contest is still too close to call

COLLEGE STUDENTS:
Classes take back seat to ‘massive anxiety’

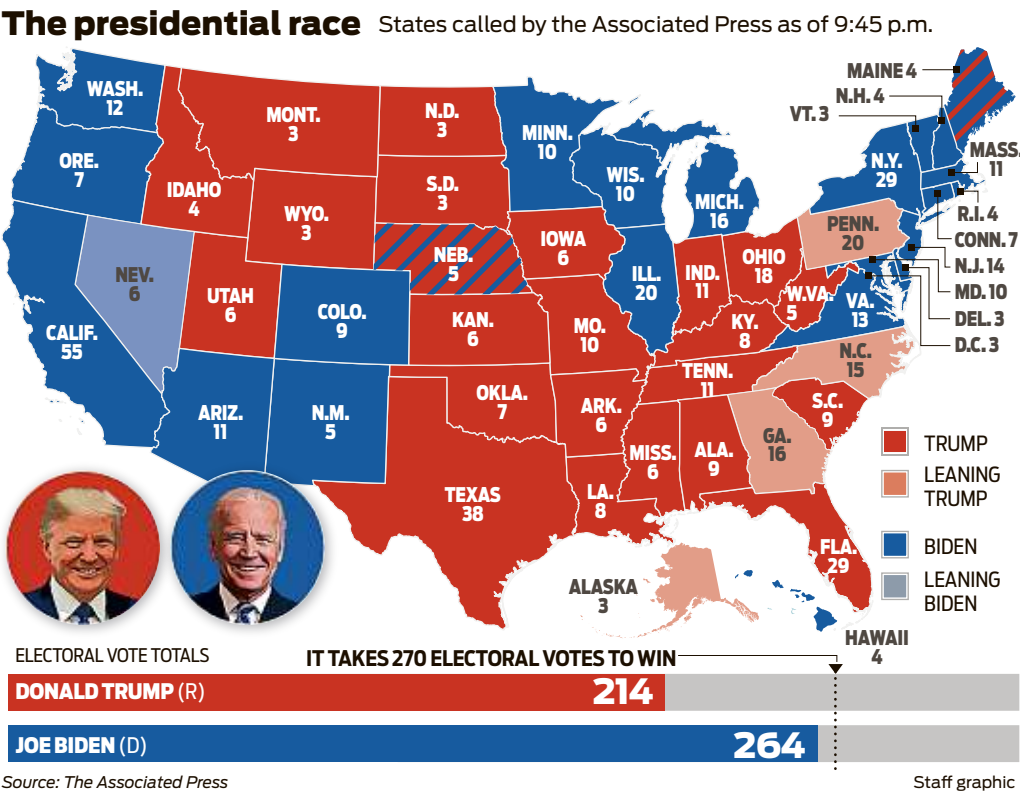
By **Brittany Britto**
and **Raga Justin**
STAFF WRITERS

As the country awaits final results in the presidential election, many Texas college students feel a heightened level of anxiety as they juggle school, work and the uncertainty of the nation’s future.

In some cases, this means classes have taken a back seat to what has become Election Week as students find it difficult to tear themselves away from Twitter or TV during a tight race.

Students of color and those who are immigrants also feel like this election holds a lot of weight for their future.

“School just seems like the least of my worries right now,” said Alejandra Zuñiga, a senior government and political communications major at the University of Texas at Austin. *Students continues on A13*



COUNTING CONTINUES:
Biden gains in Pa., Ga. as Trump claims fraud

WIRE SERVICES

As an anxious country waited to learn the winner of the presidential race, President Donald Trump and Joe Biden emerged toward day’s end to make remarks that were dramatically different.

In a brief appearance before reporters in Wilmington, Del., Biden said he remained confident that he would ultimately prevail but did not lay claim to the White House. Biden gained ground in Pennsylvania, Nevada and Georgia on Thursday.

“Democracy’s sometimes messy,” said Biden, who remained ahead in Arizona on Thursday night but lost some ground there. “It sometimes requires a little patience as well. But that patience has been rewarded now for more than 240 years with a system of governance that’s been the envy of the world.”

He urged calm and emphasized *Election continues on A13*

‘We are in a crisis situation’



Family members pay their last respects to Matilde Cisneros, who died of COVID-19, at Perches Funeral Home in El Paso.

EL PASO — When Adela Santiago gazes out from her home, past the towering steel border wall and the Rio Grande, she wonders how she will survive the rest of this year.

“I was just starting to work again when it hit me,” said Santiago, 50, who contracted the coronavirus weeks ago and is still recovering. “It’s so, so hard to survive. We don’t know how to sustain ourselves. How can we make enough bread for the family?”

Across El Paso, the corona-

Coronavirus is ripping through the border city of El Paso, filling up hospitals — and funeral homes

By **Silvia Foster-Frau** | STAFF WRITER

virus is breaking records every day, claiming jobs and hundreds of lives. A border city that was always vulnerable but was largely spared during the summer surge is now facing the virus’ wrath. COVID-19 is ripping through families and upending life in lasting ways.

“We are in a crisis situation,” said Dr. Alison Days, president of the El Paso County Medical Society and a member of the city’s COVID-19 task force. “That’s because we’re surging in a way we haven’t had, and we’re using up all our resources we haven’t had to

use up to this point.”

Hospitalizations have increased by more than 460 percent in the last month. COVID-19 patients now occupy more than 1,000 hospital beds. More than one-sixth of the state’s COVID-19 hospitalizations are in El Paso. As of this week, only 15 intensive care beds are available in El Paso County and two adjacent counties, according to state figures.

More than 630 people have died during the pandemic, according to the city, with 289 *El Paso continues on A14*

Virus cases going up as Texas hits fall phase

Areas with earlier surge, including Harris County, seeing smaller uptick

By **Jeremy Blackman**
AUSTIN BUREAU

A wave of coronavirus infections is spreading across Texas, with the state reporting more than 8,000 new cases for two straight days, the highest back-to-back total since early August.

Statewide, the rate of people testing positive for the virus has been above 10 percent for over two weeks, a sign of uncontrolled spread, according to federal health guidelines. And coronavirus hospitalizations are hovering just below 6,000, a nearly two-fold increase from a month ago.

“It looks like we’re certainly in this fall phase of seeing the virus begin to spread in multiple parts of the state once again,” said Chris Van Deusen, a spokesman for the Department of State Health Services.

The rise in new cases, which began in early October in El Paso and parts of North Texas, is moving into other regions, including those around Dallas, Laredo, College Station and Texarkana. All four areas have reported more than 10 percent of their hospitals filled with COVID-19 patients.

Hospitalizations have also increased in Bexar County, according to state data, and hospital officials in Harris County warned last week that they are seeing early signs of new outbreaks. The statewide increase in hospitalizations has been more gradual than it was in May and June, when caseloads surged in Houston and other major cities.

On Sunday, Texas surpassed California. *Texas continues on A14*



Abbott



HOUSTON GARDEN CENTERS

OPEN EVERY DAY 8am-7pm

70% OFF SALE

ON MOST TREES, SHRUBS, ROSES & MORE!

HURRY IN FOR THE BEST SELECTIONS!

ALL SALES FINAL • NO EXCHANGES • NO REFUNDS

DOES NOT INCLUDE CITRUS, CAMELIAS, ENCORE OR DEJA BLOOM AZALEAS

CITY | STATE

DAILY DIGITAL



There's more Houston Chronicle-produced content waiting for you beyond the pages of today's newspaper. Here are some of the things you'll find online today at houstonchronicle.com

BUSINESS

PIPELINE PERMITS

In a lasting patch of Texas beach, residents seek to keep oil out despite offers of big paydays.
houstonchronicle.com/surfside



CITY|STATE

METRO COLUMN

Erica Grieder writes: The 2020 election may linger in memory for Democrats as one with a particular sting.
houstonchronicle.com/grieder



SPORTS

BEST OF THE BEST

See who made the Chronicle's list of the Top 100 2021 high school football recruits.
houstonchronicle.com/hsfb/top100

SUBSCRIBERS: GET THE LATEST CORONAVIRUS NEWS AT HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM

Q: How do I activate my unlimited digital access?

A: Go to HoustonChronicle.com/activate and follow the instructions to activate or upgrade your account for unlimited HoustonChronicle.com access.

Q: How do I access the electronic replica of the newspaper?

A: Log in to HoustonChronicle.com, click the expandable menu (top left) and select e-edition.

AROUND THE REGION

DALLAS

School district's measures tackle racial inequities

Seeking to address the disparities that Black students face, Dallas ISD has rolled out a number of initiatives that include overhauling discipline, limiting certain class sizes and potentially removing more Confederate names from schools.

School administrators updated trustees on what the district was doing to tackle racial inequities during a briefing Thursday.

A little more than a week after the killing of George Floyd and the start of national protests against systemic racism, trustees passed a resolution declaring that the lives of Black students and community members matter. Then came DISD's challenge to confront its own history of racial inequities.

AUSTIN

Justice garners the most votes in Texas history

Jane Bland, a Republican Texas Supreme Court justice, made history as the candidate with the most votes in Texas history.

With more than 94 percent of polling locations reporting, Bland received 6,015,699 votes for Place 6 on the Supreme Court – more than President Donald Trump's 5,856,440 and Sen. John Cornyn's 5,927,761 votes.

Bland was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019 by Gov. Greg Abbott to replace Jeff Brown, when he was confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. This race, she was running to complete her six-year term against Democrat Kathy Cheng.

WEST HOUSTON

Fatally shot man found inside running vehicle

Police found a man shot to death Thursday inside a running car outside a west Houston parking lot.

The body was discovered in a vehicle parked outside an unspecified business in the 9700 block of Beechnut around 11 a.m., police said.

No other details were immediately available.

Essential workers at risk



Brett Coomer / Staff photographer

Workers construct a storefront in March in Montgomery County as the pandemic began.

COVID-19 is rampant among construction workers mainly because of a lack of protections, UT-Austin researchers find

By Dom DiFurio

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Construction workers are five times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than their peers in other professions, a study from University of Texas at Austin researchers indicates.

“Allowing unrestricted construction work was associated with an increase of COVID-19 hospitalization rates through mid-August 2020,” the study’s authors note in their findings.

They analyzed five months of hospitalization data in Austin.

The study also highlights the disproportionate representation of Hispanic workers in the construction industry in the United States, including in Texas, and the compounded risks facing that growing demographic.

About 30 percent of construction workers nationally are Latino – almost twice the percentage they comprise in the overall labor force.

The Hispanic population is known to experience more underlying health conditions linked to severe cases of COVID-19. Its members also are more likely to have more people living in the same house, and feel pressure to continue working even when sick, according to the authors.

Although Hispanics account for 40 percent of Texas’ population, they represent 56 percent of the state’s COVID-19 deaths, the latest data from the Texas Department of State Health Services show.

The study was performed by UT-Austin’s COVID-19 Modeling Consortium, an effort by social scientists and engineers to model and study trends around the pandemic.

It was published in the peer-re-

viewed journal JAMA Network Open, a subsidiary of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health also had a part in supporting the study.

When officials enacted lockdowns in cities across Texas in the spring, Austin city leaders asked UT to model the risks associated with allowing unrestricted work at construction sites. The study results bore out what they suspected.

“The rise in COVID-19 hospitalizations among construction workers suggest that the virus has been spreading at work sites, and more should be done to protect the health and safety of the workers,” said Remy Pasco, one of the study’s authors.

Construction work was deemed essential during the lockdowns. After some local leaders placed stricter regulations on parts of the construction industry, Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order at the end of March that allowed commercial and residential building to continue.

Another of the study’s authors, professor Lauren Ancel Meyers, said the findings don’t necessarily mean construction work needs to stop.

“It means we need to go to great lengths to ensure the health and safety of workers when they do go to work,” she said in a statement.

The study’s authors also raise concerns about how to measure the spread of the virus from work-sites to the general public, given

limited contact tracing. A previous study requested by Austin suggested spread at worksites could have larger repercussions for communities where workers live.

In a statement, Workers Defense Project cofounder and co-executive director Emily Timm called the findings “a clear call to action to elected officials” to create a “real enforcement mechanism.”

“COVID-19 will continue to disproportionately impact the LatinX community and construction workers in particular until our leadership acts,” Timm said. “The state must act now to put in place safety standards such as enforcing physical distancing, and requiring employers to provide basic PPE and offer paid sick leave.”

The study also recommends testing at worksites and “effective tracing and isolation of detected cases” to minimize virus spread.

In April, the Associated General Contractors of America, an organization that represents contractors across the U.S., issued recommended practices and COVID-19 exposure protocols for the industry. The guidance includes social distancing on work sites, screening for symptoms before work and encouraging sick employees to stay home.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area ranked second among the country’s largest building markets in September, behind only New York. More than 155,000 people work in the local building sector, according to AGC. Dallas had one of the largest year-over-year construction job gains in the U.S., despite the pandemic.

HARRIS COUNTY

Boy, 12, injured in an apparent drive-by shooting

A 12-year-old boy was struck by gunfire early Thursday in an apparent drive-by shooting targeting his home as he lay in bed, officials said.

The gunmen opened fire around 1:15 a.m. on a home on the 6000 block of Navidad Road in the Mission Bend neighborhood of west Harris County, the Harris County Sheriff’s Office said.

The boy was hospitalized in stable condition.

THE WOODLANDS

Panel approves pared-back plan for island homes

A new plan to build no more than 30 homes on 23-acre Mitchell Island was approved by The Woodlands Township Development Standards Committee on Wednesday night.

Officials from Howard Hughes Corp., which owns the island, planned 58 homes on the township’s only island, located in Lake Woodlands. The island has sat vacant since its creation in 1986.

Following weeks of protests, petitions and discussions, a new group, Citizens For Eagle Island, came to a “good faith” agreement with the developer. The residents were concerned about habitat on the island for a local American bald eagle family, as well as construction issues over a two-year period.

EDINBURG

Ex-border agent sentenced in drug smuggling

A former U.S. Border Patrol agent has been sentenced for his role in a drug smuggling conspiracy, records show.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison handed down a nearly 14-year federal prison sentence for Daniel Polanco, to be followed by five years of supervised release, officials said.

From staff and wire reports

CORRECTION

The Nov. 2 issue of Texas Inc. had the wrong publication date for Daniel Yergin’s “The Prize.” It was published in December 1990.

LOTTERY RESULTS

POWERBALL		
Powerball: 11/04	23-32-33-45-49	
Mega Ball: 14	Powerplay: 2	
Estimated jackpot:	\$137 million	
Winning tickets:	None	
MEGA MILLIONS		
Mega: 11/03	7-31-44-45-55	
Mega Ball: 19	Megaplier: 3	
Estimated jackpot:	\$129 million	
Winning tickets:	None	
Texas GAMES		
Lotto: 11/04	8-25-26-39-52-54	
Estimated jackpot:	\$7.25 million	
Winning tickets:	None	
Two Step: 11/05	4-6-18-19, 15	

Cash 5: 11/05	8-11-15-26-28
Pick 3 morn.:	4-6-3, Fireball: 1
Pick 3 day.:	6-3-4, Fireball: 8
Pick 3 even.:	2-1-8, Fireball: 0
Pick 3 night:	8-9-5, Fireball: 8
Daily 4 morn.:	4-5-1-8, Fireball: 0
Daily 4 day:	2-6-6-5, Fireball: 8
Daily 4 even.:	6-6-8-0, Fireball: 0
Daily 4 night:	6-0-2-4, Fireball: 9
ALL OR NOTHING	
Morn.:	1-4-5-6-8-12-13-14-15-18-21-23
Day:	3-6-7-8-9-11-12-13-19-21-22-23
Even.:	3-4-7-8-15-16-17-18-20-21-22-23
Night:	1-3-5-6-9-11-16-18-19-21-22-24

A Hearst newspaper

Subscriber Services
For subscription changes, billing inquiries, and delivery issues
Phone: 713-362-7211
M-F 5:30am-5:00pm
Sa-Su 7:30am-11:00am
www.houstonchronicle.com/subscribe

Subscription offers:
► Monday-Sunday: \$18 a week
► Sunday Only: \$7 a week
► Unlimited Digital Access: \$6 a week
All above subscriptions include 24/7 access to HoustonChronicle.com, TXSportsNation.com, our iOS and Android apps and the daily

eNewspaper. For information about a mailed subscription please contact Customer Service.

Premiums are subject to change
Bonus days: all subscriptions include up to four bonus days. Customers who are not regularly scheduled to receive these deliveries will be charged \$2.00 for each day. Premium days: all subscriptions include delivery of up to ten premium issues delivered throughout the year. For each premium issue, your subscription account balance will be charged up to \$7.00 in the billing period when the premium issue is delivered. New subscriptions will be charged a

one-time, non-refundable set-up fee of \$3.95. Due to processing costs, balances under \$5.00 are not refunded.

Postmaster
Send address changes to

The Houston Chronicle, 4747 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027. Periodicals postage paid at Houston, Texas.

The Houston Chronicle (USPS 807-680) is published daily by the Houston Chronicle Publishing Co.

Reader Representative
For comments on the Houston Chronicle's coverage,

standards and accuracy
Phone: 713-362-6303
Email: readerrep@chron.com
Fax: 713-362-6373
Mail: Reader Representative, Houston Chronicle 4747 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027

Chronicle Advertising
Classified713-224-6868
Display Advertising713-362-3565
Outside Harris County .800-735-3815

Other Chronicle Departments
City Desk.....713-362-7491
Sports713-362-7891
Chronicle in Education.713-362-7904

Copyright 2020 Houston Chronicle Co.

Immigration wedding scam ends in plea

Houston sham marriage broker admits guilt, agrees to help prosecutors in massive case

By Gabrielle Banks
STAFF WRITER

A marriage broker pleaded guilty Thursday to running a brazen green card marriage scam, complete with age-appropriate American spouses, Photoshopped wedding albums and

cheat sheets to help strangers prepare for interviews with federal agents.

Her lucrative Southwest Houston operation offered the recently acquainted couples a bowl of different-sized wedding rings to choose from before they headed off to tie the knot. Included in

her fee was a chauffeured ride to the Harris County courthouse where their nuptials would be carried out, as well as transportation to their immigration interviews in Greenspoint.

Ashley “Duyen” Yen Nguyen, 55, a naturalized U.S. citizen in federal custody since May 2019, admitted before U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Hoyt that she assisted at least 150 Vietnamese immigrants with fake marriages

at a cost of up to \$80,000 apiece in hopes they would gain permanent residency in the United States. She pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit marriage, immigration and mail fraud and to money laundering and making false statements in tax returns.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Laurence Goldman said in exchange for substantial cooperation with the government prior to sentencing, the Justice De-

partment was prepared to dismiss six charges, including a count of unlawful procurement of naturalization that would have automatically taken away her citizenship. He also said he would not oppose Nguyen’s request for a downward departure at sentencing if she gave prosecutors sufficient help in tracking down co-conspirators.

She faces up to 20 years in

Scam continues on A10

Dems retake district courts

By Samantha Ketterer
STAFF WRITER

All of Harris County’s state district judges are Democrats again after voters booted out the two seated Republicans, both of whom were gubernatorial appointees.

Te’iva Bell, a Harris County public defender, on Tuesday won the 339th Judicial District Court seat, beating incumbent Jesse McClure by more than 6 percentage points.

Her election brings the criminal courts back to a slate of all Democrats, whose 2018 sweep of the judiciary lasted just a year. In November 2019, Gov. Greg Abbott appointed McClure, a Republican, to a vacant seat left by Maria Jackson, who resigned and announced a future run for Harris County Precinct 3 commissioner.

Voters also flipped one Republican seat in the civil district courts, cementing total Democratic control there. Senior Assistant County Attorney Cheryl Elliott Thornton ousted incumbent Michael Landrum in the 16th Judicial District, where he has served since August as another Abbott appointee to a vacant seat.

Democrats retained their only other contested criminal judicial seat, with former federal public defender and civil rights attorney Natalia Cornelio defeating Arlene Hecht in the 351st Judicial District. The party also held on to a handful of contested civil seats, and several criminal and civil Democratic candidates ran unopposed.

The sole family court judge up for reelection, Julia Maldonado, also won her race against Alyssa Lemkuil, a Republican.

samantha.ketterer@chron.com

Cracking down on gun crimes



Melissa Phillip / Staff photographer

The ATF’s James O’Flaherty prepares to test fire a handgun Thursday at the agency’s headquarters during a news conference with the Houston Police Department. The Crime Gun Strike Force has arrested 293 people over the past year.

Federal task force has arrested nearly 300 in past year, most linked to violent incidents

By St. John Barned-Smith
STAFF WRITER

A gun-violence-prevention task force has arrested 293 people over the past year, most of whom were linked to violent robberies or similar crimes, federal authorities announced Thursday.

“Our priorities really are criminals using firearms to com-

mit violent crime,” said Fred Milanowski, special agent-in-charge of the Houston Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Authorities created the task force, dubbed the “Crime Gun Strike Force,” and staffed it with ATF agents, police officers and prosecutors.

Milanowski touted the

group’s work.

“Almost every medium-to-large police department across the country has a narcotics unit just focused on narcotics,” he said. “But very few have units just focusing on criminals that are using firearms.”

The unit focuses on robbers who use guns while committing crimes and people involved in multiple shootings, as well as firearms traffickers.

“Investigating those is our best way of reducing violent crime,” he said, explaining that

200 of the 293 arrests that strike force members made in the last year fit those categories.

Milanowski touted the strike force’s work in the arrest of a four-man robbery crew that swiped \$15,000 worth of cell-phones from an AT&T store in Champion Forest in April.

After the arrests, investigators connected the crew to three other robberies, netting federal indictments against eight people, including two men facing murder charges in Harris Coun-

Guns continues on A9

In-person return to form



Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

Madison Acevedo and Claire McKee of the Vitacca Dance Accelerated Program wear face masks during a class taught by Vitacca Ballet Master Stephen Hanna in the Montrose studio Thursday. The studio closed earlier in the pandemic, with dancers and teachers holding classes on Zoom.

Assault case dismissed against outgoing DA

By Samantha Ketterer
STAFF WRITER

A Harris County court has dismissed a domestic violence case against outgoing Liberty County District Attorney Logan Pickett.

Pickett was arrested in November 2019 after police investigated an alleged assault that left his wife needing three stitches on her head. Pickett denied the assault at a Houston hotel.

Prosecutors on Aug. 4 motioned to dismiss the case because they said it couldn’t be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, even though probable cause existed, according to court documents. Pickett’s attorney, Chip Lewis, declined to comment.

Police responded to the hotel on Nov. 23, 2019, after Pickett’s wife walked into the lobby in the

early morning, crying and asking for a valet so she could go home, according to probable cause records. She told the hotel clerk that her husband pushed her during an argument, causing her to hit her head, court records show.

The wife refused medical attention, and she and Pickett both declined to discuss what occurred. He was charged with assault against a family member, a Class A misdemeanor.

Judge Shannon Baldwin released Pickett on bond. The State Bar of Texas usually cannot seek disbarment until an attorney is convicted of a crime.

Pickett, a Republican, was elected in 2012 and re-elected in 2016. He was defeated for reelection in the March primary.

samantha.ketterer@chron.com

Feds say TEA failed to show progress on special education

By Shelby Webb
STAFF WRITER

The Texas Education Agency has failed to show it sufficiently addressed any of the U.S. Department of Education’s requirements for improving special education across the state, federal officials said in a letter to the

agency last month.

The Oct. 19 missive said the agency was unable to provide federal officials with enough documentation and data to show it has completed its corrective action plan after a federal investigation found TEA put an arbitrary cap on the percentage of students districts could provide

with special education services. Additionally, the letter stated local school districts continued to struggle with ambiguous guidance in some instances, and that some continued to violate federal disability law.

In the letter, officials with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Pro-

grams, or OSEP, said that while TEA has implemented some actions to address its violations of federal disability law, “OSEP cannot determine, in the absence of additional and up-to-date information, whether these actions have been sufficient to fully address the noncompliance. ...”

Steven Aleman, a senior poli-

cy specialist with Disability Rights Texas, said his organization found the letter buried on the Department of Education’s website but had not heard from TEA officials that they received it.

“TEA needs to step forward and acknowledge they received

TEA continues on A10

150,000 ballots weren't delivered on time

By Jacob Bogage and Christopher Ingraham

WASHINGTON POST

More than 150,000 ballots were caught in U.S. Postal Service processing facilities and not delivered by Election Day, agency data shows, including more than 12,000 in five of the states that have yet to be called for President Donald Trump or Joe Biden. Despite assurances from Postal Service leaders that agency officials were conducting daily sweeps for misplaced ballots, the mail service acknowledged in a court filing Thursday that tens of thousands of ballots hadn't been processed in time, and that more ballots were processed Wednesday than on Election Day. The number of mailed ballots

the Postal Service didn't deliver by Election Day is expected to grow as more data is released in the coming days. Some election experts worry such delays could run up against even some of the more generous ballot acceptance windows some states have granted. In several swing states, late ballots still will be counted as long as they were postmarked by Election Day and received by Friday, according to state law. They include Nevada, where 4,518 ballots arrived after Election Day, as well as North Carolina (2,958) and Pennsylvania, (3,439). But in other states – such as Arizona, where 864 ballots were delayed, and Georgia (853) – votes that didn't reach election officials by Nov. 3 will be disqualified. Because the counts aren't fin-

ished in those states, it's unclear whether undelivered ballots would have made a difference in deciding the presidential election. But the delivery failures highlight the risks in relying on the mail service to deliver ballots close to Election Day. The Postal Service had warned voters not to mail ballots within one week of the election. The Biden campaign changed its messaging to encourage voters to use drop boxes or vote in person and to avoid mailing their ballots within 10 days of the election. The Trump campaign's messaging on the topic was mixed: The president claimed mail-in voting was susceptible to fraud, though he and first lady Melania Trump voted by mail themselves in Florida, and the campaign later courted supporters to vote by mail after

seeing growing Democratic advances. Under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a major Trump financier who took over the agency in June, first-class mail delivery rates have declined steadily, especially in urban areas that are bastions of Democratic voters. DeJoy said in public statements that facilitating an election in which a record 198 million Americans were eligible to vote by mail was his "sacred duty" and that the agency was up to the task. But the Postal Service's summer struggles bled into election season almost immediately as Americans began voting in October. On Wednesday, the Postal Service processed 94.5 percent of ballots on time, an improvement over recent days, but below the 97 per-

cent rate that postal and voting experts expect. Based on the agency's one- to three-day ballot-processing window, voters would have mailed those ballots Sunday or Monday. For the remaining 5.5 percent, or more than 8,000, of the ballots that took longer to process, they would have been mailed between Thursday and Saturday. In the nine postal districts spanning five states – Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia – that have yet to decide the presidential race, the on-time rate was 84.6 percent. That means roughly 15 of every 100 ballots in processing plants were not sorted – or delivered – in time. A Postal Service representative didn't immediately respond Thursday to a request for comment.

Ex-cops in Floyd case to be tried together



Joshua Lott / Washington Post

Flameless candles sit at a memorial for George Floyd in Minneapolis to celebrate what would have been his 47th birthday Oct. 14.

By Tim Arango

NEW YORK TIMES

In an important win for the prosecution, a judge ruled Thursday that the four officers charged in the killing of George Floyd, a Black man from Houston who took some of his last breaths under the knee of a white officer on a Minneapolis street corner in May, will stand trial together. Judge Peter Cahill in Minneapolis also ruled that the media can broadcast the trial, scheduled for next spring. It was an unusual move for the Twin Cities, where courts are generally closed to cameras. The judge cited the coronavirus pandemic, which limits the number of people who can be in the courtroom at any time, and the immense national and international interest in the case. "Protests demanding justice for George Floyd continue," Cahill wrote in his ruling. "It is expected that, even with some overflow courtrooms, the demand by family members, the public and the press to attend the joint trial will outstrip the court's ability to provide meaningful access." Cahill also said the trial will remain – for now – in the Twin Cities, although he left open the possibility of moving it later if the court can't seat a jury untainted by the vast publicity the case has generated.



Associated Press file photos

The accused officers are, clockwise from top left, Derek Chauvin, Alexander Kueng, Tou Thao and Thomas Lane.

The defendants, including Derek Chauvin, the white officer who pinned Floyd to the ground for more than nine minutes, had asked the court for a change of venue, arguing that they wouldn't be able to get a fair trial in Minneapolis because of pretrial publicity and the wide-scale protests against racial injustice that Floyd's death sparked in Minneapolis and around the world. Experts following the case have said they believe Cahill is determined to keep the case in the Twin Cities, understanding that moving the trial likely would provoke new protests and fears of a less diverse jury. Such a move would have evoked the history of the Rodney King

case in Los Angeles in 1992. The trial against the police officers who beat King was moved to a largely white suburb, resulting in acquittals on assault charges that led to riots. Cahill also ordered that the jurors would remain anonymous and said they would be partly sequestered during the trial and ordered to drive each morning to a secure location before being escorted to the courtroom. State Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office is overseeing the prosecution, said in a statement that he was satisfied with the court's decision. "The murder of George Floyd occurred in Minneapolis, and it is right that the defendants should be tried in Minneapolis," he said. "It is also true that they acted in concert with each other, and the evidence against them is similar, so it is right to try them in one trial." Chauvin, who had been a 19-year veteran on the police force, is charged with second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter and faces 40 years in prison if convicted. The other officers, including two rookies who had aided Chauvin in pinning Floyd to the pavement in front of a convenience store, are charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder. Former officer Tou Thao, who knelt to the side and kept away by-

standers who were yelling that Floyd couldn't breathe, also is charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder. All four former officers, who were fired after the incident, are free on bail. The two rookie officers, Thomas Lane and Alexander Kueng, were the first on the scene the evening of May 25 after a convenience store clerk called police, saying Floyd had tried to pass off a counterfeit \$20 bill to pay for cigarettes. From the start, Floyd, 46, was agitated and resisted being put in the back of a squad car, saying he was claustrophobic. After Chauvin arrived, Floyd was placed face down on the street, where he repeatedly said he couldn't breathe. As bystanders gathered, one of them captured the scene on a cell-phone camera. In video that was viewed around the world and provoked weeks of unrest in U.S. cities, Floyd continued to say he couldn't breathe and called out for his mother. By the time paramedics arrived, Floyd went limp and seemed to stop breathing. He was later declared dead at a hospital. Earl Gray, the lawyer for Lane, and Eric Nelson, the lawyer for Chauvin, declined to comment on the judge's rulings. Lawyers for the other two former officers didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

IN BRIEF

FLORIDA

Road near school renamed for slain teen

A section of road that leads to the South Florida high school that Trayvon Martin attended now bears the name of the Black teenager whose 2012 death helped spark the Black Lives Matter movement. The road became Trayvon Martin Avenue during a brief ceremony Thursday morning near Dr. Michael K. Krop Senior High, where the teen was in 11th grade when he was killed. "Our students every morning will come out here and see the road that bears Trayvon's name. His name will continue forever," Principal Adam Kosnitzky said. Martin, 17, was shot dead while visiting his father in Sanford, Fla. The teen was unarmed and walking back from a convenience store when he was shot by George Zimmerman after the two engaged in a struggle. Zimmerman was acquitted under Florida's self-defense law in July 2013.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Mom who threw away newborns sentenced

A mother who skipped the trial where she was convicted of homicide by child abuse for throwing two of her newborns away in trash bags moments after they were born will spend 40 years in prison. Alyssa Dayvault turned herself in the day after her trial ended and remained in jail until Thursday, when Circuit Judge Steven John opened the envelopes where he placed her sealed sentences after the jury's verdict on Oct. 15. Dayvault, 32, was sentenced concurrently to 40 years in prison in the deaths of each child. She faced 20 years to life on the charges. Dayvault hid her pregnancies in 2017 and 2018 from everyone, including her boyfriend and her mother, gave birth at her North Myrtle Beach home alone, then put the newborns into trash bags and threw them away, prosecutors said.

NEW YORK

Nancy, Jenga, chalk enter toy hall of fame

Baby Nancy, the first Black baby doll to have an Afro and other authentic features, was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, along with sidewalk chalk and the wooden block game Jenga. The 2020 honorees were recognized for their creativity and popularity over time. They were chosen by a panel of experts from among 12 finalists that also included bingo, Breyer Horses, Lite-Brite, Masters of the Universe, My Little Pony, Risk, Sorry!, Tamagotchi, and Yahtzee.

From wire reports



Victoria Gray / National Toy Hall of Fame

Baby Nancy, sidewalk chalk and Jenga have been inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, N.Y.

Court rejects request for gunman's school records

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A request by several media groups for the school records of the man who gunned down nine people in Dayton last year was rejected Thursday by the state Supreme Court. The groups, including the Associated Press, argued that the student records could provide information on whether authorities properly handled early warning signs from slain gunman Connor

Betts. But the court ruled 6-1 that the law "is unambiguous and is not truly susceptible to differing interpretations," according to the majority decision written by Justice Melody Stewart. "The records of a person who attended a public school can be disclosed only with the consent of the student, if that student is 18 years of age or older," Stewart wrote. "If that student is deceased, he is no longer available to

grant consent." Stewart added that if the state Legislature had intended that the death of a person could alter the confidentiality of such records, "it could have expressly enacted such a rule." Justice Sharon Kennedy dissented, noting the law refers to records of a student currently attending a public school. The law "does not prohibit a public school from releasing the records of a former student who

is deceased and therefore not currently 'attending' that school," Kennedy wrote. The court heard arguments for and against releasing the records in June. Ohio law was meant to align with federal law, a statute the U.S. Department of Education has interpreted to mean that students' privacy rights end if they die, as do legal interpretations in other states, Erin Rhinehart, an attorney representing the media groups, argued at the time.

Paid Advertisement

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING
SECURITY INCIDENT

Luxottica of America, Inc. (“Luxottica”) is an owner of and/or service provider to eye care practices across the country. We recently learned that on August 5th an unauthorized person accessed the Luxottica-managed web application used for appointment scheduling. **Individuals who recently made appointments with eye care providers at the locations below may have been impacted.**

On August 9, 2020, Luxottica learned of the incident, contained it, and immediately began an investigation to determine the extent of the incident. On August 28, 2020, we preliminarily concluded that the attacker may have accessed and acquired patient information.

The personal information involved in this incident may have included: full name, contact information, appointment date and time, health insurance policy number, doctor or appointment notes that may indicate information related to eye care treatment, such as prescriptions, health conditions or procedures.

Luxottica is not aware of any misuse of personal information or harm to patients as a result of this incident. Nonetheless, we encourage potentially impacted individuals to remain vigilant. If you discover any suspicious activity on your accounts or if you suspect identity theft or fraud, report it immediately to your health plan or insurer.

We regret that this incident occurred and take our data protection responsibilities very seriously. We have taken measures to enhance our security controls and prevent this type of incident from recurring, including implementing additional access restrictions on our patient scheduling platform. We also notified federal law enforcement of this matter.

On October 27, 2020, Luxottica will begin mailing notice of the incident to impacted patients for whom the eye care practices below had current mailing addresses. Individuals seeking additional information can call toll free to (877) 540-1431 (within the U.S. and Canada) or visit Luxottica.kroll.com. Please know that we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause.

IMPACTED TEXAS PRACTICE/DOCTOR NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Beyond Eye Care, PLLC
6931 Fm1960 Rd East,
Atascocita

Amrita Bains PA
25905 US Hwy 290
Ste A, Cypress

Hieu T. Le, OD, PA
28902 Hwy 290, Suite
J09, Cypress

Fidelity Eye Care
200 Baybrook Mall,
Friendswood

Acclaro Optical Inc
9738 Katy Freeway
#500, Houston

CE Eye Care, PLLC
10976 Westheimer,
Houston

Copperfield Vision Center Inc
7085 Hwy 6 North,
Houston

Diab Vision Centers
3031 Kirby Dr,
Houston

EBF Eye Pro LLC
1020 Willbrook Mall,
Houston

Greater Sights PLLC
3004 Yale Street
Suite 900, Houston

Jonadia Inc
1800 Post Oak Blvd
Suite 6120, Houston

Lauren Eye Group, LLC
5135 West Alabama,
Ste 5410, Houston

Leav, Ly
2700 North Eldersidge
Parkway, Houston

Lestavia Duplantier OD PA
5815-A E Sam Houston
PkwY North, Houston

Mehdiratta, Nishi
2019 W Gray St, Space
M05, Houston

Nguyen, Ann
19955 Katy Fwy,
Houston

Nguyen, Eric
8500 Main St,
Houston

Royal Eye Center LLC
16929 El Camino Real,
Houston

Truong, Van Thuy
303 Memorial City
Ste 333, Houston

Accomplish Vision PLLC
20777 Hwy 59, Humble

Fadel, Emile
2717 Commercial
Center, Suite, Katy

Khami, Joyce
23710 Westheimer
PkwY, Katy

Tran, Diana
8100 Gulf Freeway
South, League City

Woodlands Family Vision, PLLC
32858 Fm 2978 Rd,
Magnolia

Cherian, Ann
6000 Hwy 6,
Missouri City

Eye Central Inc
5767 Fairmont PkwY,
Pasadena

Vo, Denise PA
5757 Fairmont PkwY,
Pasadena

Anh Lam PA
10420 Broadway,
Pearland

Texans Eye Care, PLLC
3045 Silver Lakes Village
Dr, Pearland

Gemstone Eye Care
7101 W Grand Parkway
S Ste 170, Richmond

Khami, Joyce
10241 West Grand
Parkway South,
Richmond

Beyond Eye Care PLLC
6635 N Grand Parkway
W, Spring

Beyond Eye Care, PLLC
19511 I-45 North,
Spring

Holland, Max K
16300 Southwest
Freeway, Sugar Land

Sugarland Vision Center PC
1875 Hwy 6 South #800,
Sugar Land

EBF Eye Pro, LLC
16535 Southwest
Freeway, Ste 2,
Sugarland

EBF Eye Pro, LLC
9595 Six Pines Dr,
#1350, The Woodlands

Opara, Katie
1801 W Bay Area Blvd,
Webster

Deadly Eta drenches Central America

By Marlon Gonzalez
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — The rain-heavy remnants of Hurricane Eta flooded homes from Panama to Guatemala on Thursday as the death toll across Central America rose to 57, and aid organizations warned the flooding and mudslides were creating a slow-moving humanitarian disaster across the region.

The storm that hit Nicaragua as a mighty Category 4 hurricane Tuesday had become more of a vast tropical rainstorm, but it was advancing so slowly and dumping so much rain that much of Central America remained on high alert. Forecasters said the now-tropical depression was expected to regather and head toward Cuba and possibly the Gulf of Mexico by early next week.

On Thursday afternoon, Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei said a water-soaked mountainside in the central part of the country had slid down onto the town of San Cristobal Verapaz, burying homes and leaving at least 25 dead.

Two other slides in Huehuetenango had killed at least 12 more, he said. Earlier Thursday, five others had been killed in smaller slides in Guatemala.

Guatemalan authorities reported four dead Thursday, adding to 13 victims in Honduras and two in Nicaragua. Panamanian authorities reported eight missing.

Two children died when their home collapsed under heavy rains in the central Guatemalan department of Quiche, local firefighters said. A third person also died in Quiche, but details weren't immediately available.

Giammattei confirmed a fourth death in a landslide in Chinautla north of the capital Wednesday night.

On Thursday, he said on local radio that 60 percent of the eastern city of Puerto Barrios was flooded and that 48 more hours of rain were expected. Authorities reported nearly 100 homes damaged by flooding and landslides in Guatemala.

Honduras' national police said Thursday that six more bodies had



Delmer Martinez / Associated Press

A toddler is carried over a flooded street in the aftermath of Hurricane Eta on Thursday in Jerusalem, Honduras. The storm hit Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane on Tuesday, then became more of a slow-moving vast tropical rainstorm.

been found, bringing the country's toll to 13. The bodies of two adults and two children were found after excavations in a mudslide that occurred Wednesday in the township of Gualala. Two boys ages 8 and 11 died in another mudslide in the township of El Nispero.

Earlier, residents found the body of a girl buried in a landslide Wednesday in mountains outside the northern coastal city of Tela. In the same area, a large landslide buried a home with a mother and two children inside it, according to Honduras Fire Department spokesman Oscar Triminio.

Triminio said a 2-year-old girl was killed in the Santa Barbara department when she and her mother were swept away by floodwaters. The mother survived.

Dozens of residents of a neighborhood of the northern city of San Pedro Sula had to abandon their homes at 4 a.m. Thursday when water from the Chamelecon River

arrived at their doorsteps.

Honduran officials earlier reported that a 12-year-old girl died in a mudslide, and a 15-year-old boy drowned trying to cross a rain-swollen river.

Marvin Aparicio of Honduras' emergency management agency said Wednesday that some 457 homes had been damaged, mostly by floodwaters. There were 41 communities cut off by washed-out roads, and nine bridges in the country were wiped out by swollen rivers.

Among those rescued were Karen Patricia Serrano, her husband and five children. Their home was flooded with waters from the Lancetilla River, and they had been in a shelter in the northern city of Tela since Monday.

"We lost everything," the 32-year-old woman said. "I don't know what we're going to do. I even lost my little animals," she said, referring to her chickens, cats and dogs.



Orlando Sierra / Getty Images

A man rescues his pigs after the Ulua River overflowed on Thursday in the municipality of El Progreso in Honduras.



Mulugeta Ayene / Associated Press

Ethiopian Orthodox Christians light candles and pray for peace during a church service at the Medhane Alem Cathedral in the Ethiopian capital city of Addis Ababa on Thursday.

Ethiopian army says nation was forced into 'aimless war'

By Elias Meseret and Cara Anna
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — This nation's army said Thursday that the country has been forced into an "unexpected and aimless war" with its well-armed Tigray region, while Tigray asserted that fighter jets had bombed areas around its capital — a marked escalation with little sign of the two sides willing to talk to calm the crisis.

Ethiopia's deputy army chief said military forces are being sent to the fighting in Tigray from other parts of the country.

"The army will not go anywhere," Birhanu Julia said amid fears that the conflict would spill into other regions of Africa's second-most populous nation. "The war will end there."

Tigray President Debretsion Ge-

bremichael said that "we are in position to defend ourselves from enemies that waged war on the Tigray region. ... We are ready to be martyrs."

Ethiopia's government hasn't commented on the bombing allegation, read Thursday evening on the Tigray regional broadcaster.

The strong words came a day after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed told the nation the military will carry out further operations this week in response to an alleged deadly attack on a military base by the regional government.

Observers warn that a civil war in Ethiopia involving Tigray could destabilize the already turbulent Horn of Africa. The prime minister, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year for his sweeping political reforms, now faces his greatest challenge in holding together a country of some 110 million people with mul-

tiple ethnic and other grievances.

Communications remained cut off in the northern Tigray region after services disappeared around the time Ahmed's office first announced the attack and military action early Wednesday. The lack of contact has challenged efforts to verify the Ethiopian government's account of events.

The Tigray capital, Mekele, appeared calm Thursday morning. But skirmishes took place elsewhere, a source said.

Members of the Tigray People's Liberation Front are "fleeing and joining the army; those injured are receiving medical treatment," Julia said.

But Gebremichael said the Ethiopian army's northern command is siding with the Tigray people, and he confirmed that fighting also is taking place in an area bordering the Amhara region.

Kosovo leader resigns to face war crimes trial

By Zenel Zhinipotoku and Llazar Semini
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRISTINA, Kosovo — President Hashim Thaci, a guerrilla leader during Kosovo's war for independence from Serbia in the late 1990s, resigned Thursday and was sent to a special court in The Hague, where he'll be tried on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Thaci said he decided to relinquish his post "to protect the integrity of the presidency of Kosovo" and to preserve the historical truth of which side was the perpetrator, and which the victim, in the conflict that killed more than 10,000 people.

"We are a freedom-loving people and not vengeful," Thaci, 52, said at a news conference in Pristina, Kosovo's capital. "That is why no claim may rewrite history. Kosovo has been the victim. Serbia has been the aggressor."

The court confirmed his arrival in The Hague late Thursday and released a redacted version of his indictment, which initially was filed in April and confirmed by a judge Oct. 26, a decision that likely precipitated the timing of the president's resignation.

It describes Thaci and three other former Kosovo Liberation Army commanders who also are now in The Hague to face charges as members of a "joint criminal enterprise" set up "to gain and exercise control over all of Kosovo by means including unlawfully intimidating, mistreating, committing violence against, and removing those deemed to be opponents" from March 1998 to September 1999.

The indictment charges Thaci along with Kadri Veseli, Rexhep Selimi and Jakup Krasniqi. All four will appear in court for the



An indictment accuses Hashim Thaci of being part of a "joint criminal enterprise."

first time in coming days.

Veseli is a former parliament speaker and an opposition party leader who said he was resigning from his political activities before he was flown to the Netherlands.

Thaci said he was proud to have belonged to the KLA, calling it "the most sublime value of the Albanian nation."

He called the indictment "the smallest price we have to pay for the freedom of our people."

Thaci and the others "shared the intent for the commission of each of the crimes" with other members of the joint criminal enterprise, the indictment said. They each face 10 charges including murder, torture, enforced disappearances and persecution.

The indictment listed several cases of illegal detention and mistreatment of prisoners by KLA fighters, including vicious beatings and electrocutions and the murder of many others.

Announcing the indictment earlier this year, the Specialist Prosecutor's Office alleged that the men were "criminally responsible for nearly 100 murders."

The four suspects are charged based on their alleged membership in a joint criminal enterprise and as commanders of fighters who carried out the crimes.

The indictment was filed by an international prosecutor linked to a special Kosovo court based in The Hague that was set up five years ago to investigate and try former ethnic Albanian rebel leaders over alleged war crimes.

GALLERY FURNITURE

TEMPUR-PEDIC®

is the Most Highly Recommended Bed in America.* It's A Mattress Like No Other.

"The biggest thing you can do to improve your health is to sleep better"
Jim 'Mattress Mack' McIngvale



COME TO GALLERY FURNITURE TODAY

AND SEE WHY 95% OF SLEEPERS RECOMMEND THEIR TEMPUR-PEDIC® MATTRESS!

Gallery Furniture has all models in stock –
pick your perfect Tempur-pedic today at Gallery Furniture and sleep on it tonight.

Our breeze® mattresses were designed in our thermal laboratory
to help manage the micro-climate between your mattress and your covers
for a cooler, deeper sleep all night long.

TEMPUR-PEDIC®

**#1 IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
WITH RETAIL MATTRESSES IN 2019**

J.D. Power Mattress Satisfaction Report

BEST OF WHAT'S NEW WINNER

TEMPUR-LUXE**bre**eze®

Awarded in 2019 by Popular Science

\$300 GIFT CARD FREE WITH MATTRESS PURCHASE \$3,000 OR MORE

FREE DELIVERY TODAY!!!

FREE HAUL OFF OF REPLACEMENT PIECES TODAY!!!

GREAT SLEEP BOOSTS IMMUNE SYSTEM TO FIGHT OFF THE VIRUS!!



BUY ONLINE 
BUY ON FACETIME 
BUY IN-STORE 

plus
**FREE DELIVERY
IN 4 HOURS** 
* IN THE HOUSTON AREA WITH A \$500 OR MORE PURCHASE

281-407-6581 | OPEN TODAY!!!

6006 NORTH FWY
HOUSTON, TX 77076
8AM - 10PM
OPEN TODAY!

2411 POST OAK BLVD
HOUSTON, TX 77056
MON - SAT 9AM - 10PM • SUN 9AM - 8PM
OPEN TODAY!

7227 W GRAND PKWY
RICHMOND, TX 77407
10AM - 10PM
OPEN TODAY!

CORONAVIRUS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020 • PAGE A8

U.S. smashes daily mark with over 100K cases

By Kate Taylor
NEW YORK TIMES

The U.S. on Wednesday recorded more than 100,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day for the first time since the pandemic began, bursting past a grim threshold as the wave of infections engulfing the country shows no sign of receding.

The total count of new infections was at least 107,000, according to a New York Times database. Twenty-three states have recorded more cases in the past week than in any other seven-day stretch.

Five states — Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota and Nebraska — also set single-day case records Wednesday. Cases were mounting in the Mountain West and even in the Northeast, which over the summer seemed to be getting the virus under control.

North and South Dakota and Wisconsin have led the country for weeks in the number of new cases per capita. But other states have seen recent steep increases in the past 14 days.

Daily case reports in Minnesota, on average, have increased 102 percent over that time, while those in Indiana have risen 73 percent.

For months, Maine had among

the lowest levels of transmission anywhere in the country, but new cases there have more than tripled. In Wyoming, new cases are up 73 percent, while in Iowa they've more than doubled.

Deaths related to the coronavirus, which lag behind case reports, have increased 21 percent across the country in the past two weeks.

Hospitals in some areas are feeling the strain of surging caseloads. More than 50,000 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 across the country, according to the COVID Tracking Project, an increase of roughly 64 percent since the beginning of October.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country's top infectious disease expert, predicted in June, when new cases were averaging roughly 42,000 a day, that the rate eventually would reach 100,000 a day if the pandemic weren't brought under control.

His blunt assessments of the country's failure to control the virus drew attacks from Trump administration officials, including the president, who called him alarmist.

Fauci told the Washington Post last week that the country probably would hit the 100,000 mark soon. "We're in for a whole lot of hurt," he said.

Fauci also said the U.S. "could



Maddie McGarvey / New York Times

Health care workers operate a drive-thru COVID-19 test site on Thursday at the state fairgrounds in Columbus, Ohio.

not possibly be positioned more poorly" as winter approaches and colder temperatures lead people to gather indoors.

And with the holiday season just weeks away, people will need to make tough decisions about how they will celebrate this year. As the virus spreads, holiday gatherings — traditionally indoors and drawing people who have traveled from other places — have the potential to become superspreader events.

The Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention recommends that when making holiday plans, consider the state of the virus in a particular area, including areas where guests may be traveling from, and the length of the event.

As states report new cases unevenly from day to day, seven-day averages are a more reliable gauge of trends. Wednesday was bad by that measure as well, with the seven-day average nearing 92,000, the highest since the pandemic began. During the early days of the pan-

demic in March and April, U.S. testing was limited, so it's not possible to say with certainty that the virus is spreading faster now than it did then.

But the pattern of infection clearly has changed.

Dr. Bill Hanage, an associate professor of epidemiology at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said this week that while the surges in the spring and summer were concentrated in specific regions — the Northeast in the spring and the Sun Belt in the summer — the current one reflects transmission increases in nearly all parts of the country.

Hanage called Wednesday's milestone "the completely foreseeable consequence of not taking pandemic management seriously." He said the country would see "hospitalizations and deaths increase in due course."

"This is desperately concerning," Hanage said, "because uncontrolled transmission will end up compromising health care, and in order to preserve it, we will almost certainly end up needing to take stronger action to prevent the worst outcomes."

"Look to Europe to see the consequences of leaving it too late," he said. "The longer you leave it, the harder it will be to control."



Matt Slocum / Associated Press

A voter stands in line to cast a ballot during Tuesday's general election in Springfield, Pa. An Associated Press analysis reveals that of 376 counties with the highest number of new cases per capita, 93 percent voted for President Donald Trump.

Hardest-hit counties broke big for Trump

By Carla K. Johnson,
Hannah Fingerhut
and Pia Deshpande
ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. voters went to the polls divided on how they see President Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic, with a surprising twist: In places where the virus is most rampant now, Trump enjoyed enormous support.

An Associated Press analysis reveals that in 376 counties with the highest number of new cases per capita, the overwhelming majority — 93 percent of those counties — went for Trump. Most were rural areas in the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Taking note of the contrast, state health officials are pausing for a moment of introspection. Even as they worry about rising numbers of hospitalizations and deaths, they hope to reframe their messages and aim for a reset on public sentiment now that the election is over.

"Public health officials need to step back, listen to and understand the people who aren't taking the same stance" on mask-wearing and other control measures, said Dr. Marcus Plescia of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

"I think there's the potential for things to get less charged and divisive," he said, adding that a retooled public health message might unify Americans around lowering case counts so hospitals won't get swamped during the winter.

The AP's analysis was limited to counties in which at least 95 percent of precincts had reported results, and it grouped counties into six categories based on the rates of COVID-19 cases they'd experienced per 100,000 residents.

Polling, too, shows voters who split on Republican Trump vs. Democrat Joe Biden differed on whether the pandemic is under control.

Thirty-six percent of Trump voters described the pandemic as completely or mostly under control, and an additional 47 percent said it was somewhat under control, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 110,000 voters conducted for the AP by NORC at the University of Chicago. Meanwhile, 82 percent of Biden voters said the pandemic is not at all under control.

The pandemic was considered at least somewhat under control by slim majorities of voters in many red states, including Texas (55 percent), Alabama (60 percent), Mississippi (58 percent), Tennessee (56 percent), South

Carolina (56 percent), Kentucky (55 percent) and Missouri (54 percent).

In Wisconsin, where the virus surged just before the election, 57 percent said the pandemic wasn't under control. In Washington state, where the virus is more in control now, compared with earlier in the year, 55 percent said the same.

Voters in New York and New Hampshire, where the virus is more controlled now after early surges, were roughly divided in their assessments, similar to voters nationwide.

Trump voters interviewed by AP reporters said they value individual freedom and believed the president was doing as well as anyone could in response to the coronavirus.

Michaela Lane, a 25-year-old Republican, dropped her ballot off last week at a polling site at an outdoor mall in Phoenix. She cast her vote for Trump.

"I feel like the most important issue facing the country as a whole is liberty at large," Lane said. "Infringing on people's freedom, government overrule, government overreach, chaos in a lot of issues currently going on and just giving people back their rights."

About half of Trump voters called the economy and jobs the

top issue facing the nation, roughly twice the percentage who named the pandemic, according to VoteCast. By contrast, a majority of Biden voters — about 6 in 10 — said the pandemic was the most important issue.

In Madison, Wis., Eric Engstrom, a 31-year-old investment analyst, and his wife, Gwen, voted absentee by mail early last month. Trump's failure to control the pandemic sealed his vote for Biden, Engstrom said, calling the coronavirus the most immediate threat the nation faces. He and his wife are expecting their first child, a girl, in January, and they fear "the potential of one of us or both of us being sick when the baby is born," he said.

Engstrom called Trump's response to the virus abysmal.

"If there was any chance that I was going to vote for Trump, it was eliminated because of the pandemic," he said.

If there's one unifying force, it might be Dr. Anthony Fauci. According to VoteCast, 73 percent of voters nationwide approve of the way Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has been handling the pandemic.

Even among Trump voters, 53 percent approve of Fauci's performance. About 9 in 10 Biden voters approve.

IN BRIEF

MISSOURI

Election worker who had positive test dies

A suburban St. Louis election official who worked at a polling place on Election Day despite a positive test for the coronavirus has died, raising concerns for the nearly 2,000 people who voted there.

St. Charles County spokeswoman Mary Enger said in a news release Thursday that the person was an election judge supervisor at the Blanchette Park Memorial Hall polling site in St. Charles, about 25 miles northwest of St. Louis.

Enger said the county's health department and election authority recently learned that the person tested positive Oct. 30 for COVID-19 and was advised to quarantine for 14 days.

"The election judge nevertheless failed to follow the advice" and worked throughout the day Tuesday, Enger said.

GREECE

Damage from past cited in lockdown

With a surge of coronavirus cases straining health systems in many European countries, this country announced a nationwide lockdown Thursday in the hope of stemming a rising tide of patients before its hospitals come under "unbearable" pressure.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said he acted before infection rates reached the levels seen in many neighboring countries because Greece, after years of financial crises that have damaged its health system, couldn't afford to wait as long as others had to impose restrictions.

"We must stop this wave," Mitsotakis said.

DENMARK

Fur exporter to cull 15 million minks

Danish fur farmers say they've been dealt a major blow after the world's largest mink fur exporter decided to cull all 15 million minks on this nation's farms to minimize the risk of them retransmitting the coronavirus to humans.

"I do not think there is a mink profession in the future," breeder Frank Andersen told Danish broadcaster DR on Thursday.

The government said Wednesday that a mutation in COVID-19 has been found in 12 people who got infected by minks. But Fur Europe, a Brussels-based organization representing national associations in 28 European countries, said there was no indication mink farming was an important factor in transmitting the virus.

From wire reports

Coronavirus at a glance

48,600,362

Confirmed cases worldwide

9,606,369

Confirmed cases in U.S.

976,984

Confirmed cases in Texas

1,232,209

Deaths worldwide

234,911

Deaths in U.S.

18,812

Deaths in Texas

Source: WHO, CDC, Johns Hopkins University

CITY | STATE



NIBIN contractor Mark McKelvy demonstrates the BrassTrax machine for making ballistic acquisitions in the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network mobile command center unveiled Thursday in Houston.

GUNS

From page A3

ty who were out on bond.

At the news conference, Police Chief Art Acevedo said he would add 10 HPD officers to the 17 already working on the unit.

“We’re getting some great results,” he said.

He blamed the rising violence on the COVID-19 pandemic and renewed complaints against local magistrates and judges he accused of allowing serial criminals to walk free.

“Robbery is not a joke ... aggravated assault is not a joke, murder is not a joke,” he said.

The chief thanked ATF for bringing federal cases against local criminals, saying they did not fear local police, but were more wary of the feds.

“What they fear is federal prosecution, because they know they won’t go in one door and out the other,” he said.

The agents’ work comes amid continued efforts to rein in gun violence in Houston, which has weathered a 40 percent increase in homicides this year and

seen a double-digit increase in violent crime.

Milanowski also touted the ATF’s efforts to try to speed up gun crime investigations and the bureau’s renewed push to get local law enforcement agencies to use gun forensics to track down shooters more quickly – particularly through using the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network, or NIBIN.

NIBIN has a forensics firearms database of shell casings fired in gun crimes, but for a long time police agencies waited for weeks or months to test firearms evidence.

Over the past four years, however, ATF has attempted to reboot the program, working with local agencies to get them to use more ballistics imaging/matching machines.

As shootings have increased around the region, the bureau also brought its NIBIN command vehicle to Houston.

The vehicle – which can image and match ballistics casings and also has a test-fire room – will remain in the Houston area for 45 days, Milanowski said.

Agents have visited nine smaller police departments in and around Houston with the vehicle, processing 200 cartridges collected at crime scenes and producing about a dozen leads.

In 2018, ATF sent a mobile testing van to Houston, but the mobile command center can test more evidence quicker, officials said.

In the Houston Field Division, ATF has worked to get law enforcement agencies in Houston, Harris County, Fort Bend and Montgomery counties to acquire Brasstrax machines and get connected to the NIBIN network.

Milanowski said the bureau has tried to get more law enforcement agencies across southeast Texas to use the devices more frequently and quickly – and then turn potential leads back over to investigators for potential followup.

“Everyone understands the concept, but it’s sometimes challenging to get the logistics going systematically,” he said.

st.john.smith@chron.com

AVANA

WINDOWS & DOORS

HOUSTON'S TRUSTED WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT EXPERTS

\$150 OFF
PER WINDOW
PLUS
FREE INSTALLATION

FREE ESTIMATE
0% FINANCING
AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

AUTUMN SALES EVENT

WE WORK WITH THE BEST DOOR AND WINDOW BRANDS

REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

www.avanawindows.com

281-241-6646

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 2005

2019 & 2020 Awards
for Excellence Winner
BBB Rating A+ As of 8/6/2020

World Health Organization

Taiwan Can Help

Viruses know no border.
We are all in this together.
Taiwan deserves a seat in the WHO.

By Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston



Your Partner in Good Health

Partners in Primary Care offers a unique approach to wellness after 65, with a dedicated Care Team trained to meet the unique health care needs of seniors. Become a patient today and enjoy convenient, one-stop primary care designed to proactively address both physical and mental health, as well as a deep commitment to personal safety at every location.



12 locations in the Greater Houston area.

Call **832-317-6001**
to schedule an in-person VIP tour or
visit SeniorFocusedHouston.com for
a virtual tour.

Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm

 Visit us on Facebook for activities and events

Our Commitment to You

Caring

- Doctors who listen with compassion
- A dedicated Care Team
- Personalized care plans
- Coordinated referrals

Focused

- Shorter wait times
- Unrushed appointments
- Proactive care and follow-up
- Medicare Advantage plans accepted

Accessible

- Same-day appointments
- Family-friendly exam rooms
- 24/7 phone access to Care Team
- Online medical records
- Live video visits (TeleVisits)

Convenient

- Conveniently located centers
- Free parking
- On-site lab
- On-staff clinical pharmacist
- Coordination with Health Plan transportation*
- Convenient specialty network

Connected

- Extensive community partnerships
- On-site Activity Center
- Virtual education opportunities
- Year-round social programming

Partners in Primary Care is Medicare Advantage friendly! We accept Aetna, Cigna, Humana, Memorial Hermann, TexanPlus and WellCare of Texas Medicare Advantage plans.

*When needed. Partners in Primary Care does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-877-320-2188 (TTY: 711). 注意:如果您使用繁體中文,您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-877-320-2188 (TTY: 711). GCHKS5DEN

Baker says Trump shouldn't try to stop count

By Peter Baker
NEW YORK TIMES

The White House says it wants a “James Baker-like” figure to lead its post-election battle to somehow find a way to win a second term. But the real James Baker says the White House should stop trying to stop the votes from being counted.

Baker, the former secretary of state who led the legal and political team during the Florida recount battle in 2000 that secured the presidency for George W. Bush, said Thursday that President Donald Trump might have legitimate issues to pursue but they shouldn't be used to justify a halt to the initial tabulation of ballots.

“We never said don't count the votes,” Baker said. “That's a very hard decision to defend in a democracy.”

Baker's comments came shortly after Trump tweeted “STOP THE COUNT,” in keeping with his assault on the election results before they were even in. The president went before television cameras early Wednesday to characterize the routine counting of votes as somehow an effort to steal the election.

In 2000, Bush and Al Gore only started their legal fight after the votes in Florida initially were counted.

Bush finished election night with a lead of 1,784 votes out of some 6 million cast in the state

that would determine which candidate would win the Electoral College. Because the margin was so small, an automatic machine recount was conducted, upholding Bush's lead.

After signs that some valid votes hadn't been counted, Gore's team went to court asking for hand recounts in four heavily Democratic counties, while Baker argued that the votes didn't need to be counted again.

By the time the Supreme Court halted any further recounts more than a month later, on the grounds that different counties were applying different standards in determining which ballots should be deemed valid, Bush's lead had been pared to just 537,

still enough to hold onto Florida's electoral votes.

“There are huge differences,” Baker said of the Florida battle and the brewing fights over this week's election. “For one thing, our whole argument was that the votes have been counted and they've been counted and they've been counted, and it's time to end the process. That's not exactly the message that I heard on election night. And so I think it's pretty hard to be against counting the votes.”

As an example, he disapproved of the Republican effort to throw out 127,000 votes in his hometown of Houston because they were cast in a drive-thru system the party tried to block.

“I didn't think that was a particularly wise thing to do, and as it turns out it wasn't wise legally because they've lost in state court and in federal court,” he said.

Baker, who hasn't publicly endorsed Trump and has been sharply critical at times but said he voted for him, said the president had every right to challenge results after they have been counted if there are legitimate grounds to question their validity.

Baker does agree that Trump should find someone like Baker to serve as a field marshal. “Message discipline,” he said, “is particularly important in something like this.”

But at age 90, he's ready for it to be someone else.



Carlos Osorio / Associated Press

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., prepares to ride his motorcycle for the media after an event in Rochester, Mich. Peters won re-election Wednesday, defeating Republican challenger John James in a tight, expensive race that was the state's most competitive.

Senate control hangs in balance with a few races still undecided

By Lisa Mascaro
and Mary Clare Jalonick
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Control of the Senate remained a cliffhanger Thursday after Republicans trounced Democratic challengers in crucial states but failed to lock down the seats needed to retain their tenuous majority.

One race in Georgia is headed to a January runoff. A second contest in Georgia and races in North Carolina and Alaska remain undecided, leaving the chamber deadlocked 48-48. An outcome may not be known until the new year.

With the presidential race between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden also undecided, the Senate is in limbo because the vice president of the eventual winner's party would be a tiebreaker in a split chamber.

“We're waiting – whether I'm going to be the majority leader or not,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Wednesday.

That was still the case Thursday.

The counting continued in Georgia, where GOP Sen. David Perdue was trying to hold off Democrat Jon Ossoff in a multi-candidate race that also could go to a runoff if neither candidate clears the 50 percent threshold to win.

There already is a Jan. 5 runoff in the state's other Senate race. GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler will face Democrat Raphael Warnock, a Black pastor at the church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached, after they emerged as top vote-getters but failed to clear the majority threshold.

In North Carolina, GOP Sen. Thom Tillis hoped to prevail over Democrat Cal Cunningham, whose sexting affair with a public relations specialist has clouded

the race.

Republicans were confident they would keep Alaska, where GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan was challenged by newcomer Al Gross, a doctor and Democratic-backed independent.

Democrats faced long but not impossible odds to take a slim majority after a disappointing election night when Republicans defeated multiple challengers.

In Michigan, Democrats were spared a loss when Sen. Gary Peters withstood a strong challenge from Republican John James, a Black Republican businessman. But Republicans got a win from Susan Collins in Maine and held other key seats.

McConnell, who secured a seventh term for himself in a costly campaign against Democrat Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot, has said he felt “pretty good” about the remaining contests.

But Democrats remained hopeful. Strategist Zac Petkanas said the 2020 election “was going to be an awful, ugly, dirty slog until the bitter end.”

Election night jarred Democrats and enthusiastic backers who were eager to counter Trump and his party's grip on the Senate.

While Democrats picked up must-win seats in Colorado and Arizona, they suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in one race after another – in Texas, South Carolina, Iowa, Kansas and Montana. That dramatically limited Democrats' hopes to make inroads.

In Maine, Collins' victory over Democrat Sara Gideon was especially important for Republicans, holding a seat in a state where Trump wasn't expected to win.

For Collins, it was the hardest-fought race of her career. Democrats had tried to tie the moderate to Trump and criticized her for



Richard Shiro / Associated Press

Democratic candidate Jaime Harrison speaks at a watch party in Columbia, S.C., after losing the Senate race.

her vote to confirm Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018.

Many races attracted an unprecedented outpouring of small-dollar donations for Democrats.

“You wasted a lot of money,” said White House ally Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., after defeating Jaime Harrison, despite the Democrat's stunning \$100 million haul for his upstart campaign.

But Harrison energized voters, among several Black Democratic candidates for Senate including Warnock, drawing an outpouring of national support in a year of racial reckoning, enthusiasm that will be tested again in 2021.

“This is the most important race in the country right now,” Warnock said in a fundraising appeal.

Securing the Senate majority will be vital for the winner of the presidency. Senators confirm administration nominees, including the Cabinet, and can propel or stall the White House agenda.

With Republicans now controlling the chamber 53-47, three or four seats will determine party control, depending on who wins the presidency.

The Democrats' gains were in Colorado where former Gov. John Hickenlooper defeated GOP Sen. Cory Gardner, and Arizona, where former astronaut Mark Kelly beat Republican incumbent Martha McSally.

But Democrats couldn't hold on in Alabama: Former college football coach Tommy Tuberville defeated Sen. Doug Jones.

House Dems blame losses on polls and bad strategy

By Lisa Mascaro
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Their majority shrunk, House Democrats cast blame Thursday on everything from errant polling to their election message, ground game and leadership under Speaker Nancy Pelosi after expectations for big wins came crashing down by a stark reversal in Trump country.

They focused too narrowly on health care, when voters were also worried about the economy.

They failed to fight back when Republicans labeled them “socialists” aligned with the party's most liberal firebrands.

They didn't knock on doors to meet voters, focusing instead on phone calls, digital outreach and TV ads, because of the health risks of campaigning during the pandemic.

They lost Latino voters in some places, and white, working class men in others.

They didn't pass more COVID aid through Congress when Americans needed help most.

And perhaps most importantly, Democrats are coming to grips with the fact that whether President Donald Trump is elected or is defeated by rival Joe Biden, they still have a problem understanding and winning over Trump voters.

Polling was clearly a problem on all sides, strategists said. Republicans, too, thought they were heading toward losses but instead made gains.

Just as in 2016, Trump backers confounded pollsters by supporting him and other Republican candidates in far greater numbers than predicted.

Democrats agreed they now need to learn how to win back the Trump voters they've lost.

“Is there something that we're missing about these Trump voters? said Rep. Ami Bera, D-Cal., a member of the centrist House New Democrat Coalition. “Because we certainly saw a lot of Trump voters show up.”

Lawmakers unloaded during a caucus call Thursday – Democratic freshman Rep. Abigail Spanberger, in a tight race in Virginia, spoke with “passion” about the party's campaign failures, according to a person familiar with the private call.

Pelosi tried to remind them that Biden is on the verge of replacing Trump, and House Democrats are on track to keep their majority, according to another person familiar with the call.

“We did not win every battle but we did win the war,” Pelosi said.

But expectations had been raised sky high for election night gains and that made the setbacks all the more disorienting.

Rather than bolstering their majority, as planned, Democrats lost a handful of freshman lawmakers who had just won in a 2018 midterm election backlash against the president. They also failed to add to their ranks as Republicans defeated one Democratic challenger after another.

Asked what went wrong, one Democratic strategist said: “All of the above.”

FROM THE COVER

ELECTION

From page A1

that “each ballot must be counted.”

Hours later in a news conference, Trump claimed without evidence that the vote-counting underway in several states were trying to deny him re-election.

“They’re trying to steal an election, they’re trying to rig an election,” the president said from the White House briefing room. He also baselessly suggested nefarious behavior in Philadelphia and Detroit, cities that he called “two of the most corrupt political places.”

He used much of his appearance to complain about pre-election polls, demonize the news media and try to put the best face on Tuesday’s results, trumpeting his party’s congressional gains. He did not take questions from reporters.

In his speech, Trump expressed no concern about the protracted vote count in Arizona, a state where he’s been cutting in to Biden’s lead as more ballots are tabulated.

The president’s remarks deepened a sense of anxiety in the United States as Americans enter their third full day after the election without knowing who would serve as president for the next four years. His statements also prompted a rebuke from some Republicans, though party leaders offered no immediate response.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., a frequent critic of Trump, offered the sharpest rebuke, saying “this is getting insane” and demanding that the president stop “spreading debunked misinformation.”

Larry Hogan, the Republican governor of Maryland, wrote, “There is no defense for the President’s comments tonight undermining our Democratic process.”

There were also Republican lawmakers who rushed to Trump’s defense, siding with him in falsely asserting that the vote counting was illegal and that Democrats were trying to cheat. “Radical Dems tried to do away with law and order and are now trying to do away with law and order at the ballot box,” wrote Rep. Roger Williams of Texas.

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., tweeted support for Trump’s claims, writing that “If last 24 hours have made anything clear, it’s that we need new election integrity laws NOW.”

With the world watching, America’s patchwork of electoral laws created a confusing and angst-inducing day for both parties, to say nothing of millions of Americans eager for the campaign’s conclusion.

Biden’s advantage in Arizona, a state The Associated Press has al-



Doug Mills / New York Times

President Donald Trump leaves after making a statement at the White House in Washington on Thursday. “They’re trying to steal an election, they’re trying to rig an election,” he said.



David Goldman / Associated Press

A “We The People” tattoo decorates the arm of Trump supporter Bob Lewis as he argues with counterprotesters in Detroit.

ready called for the former vice president, narrowed as thousands of votes were tabulated. But in Georgia and Pennsylvania, Trump saw his early advantage dwindle as mail-in ballots were counted.

Until Trump’s remarks Thursday night, he had not appeared in public since he used a middle-of-the-night appearance Wednesday to insist he had already won. But he has posted angry Twitter messages, and he continued to do so Thursday.

“All of the recent Biden claimed States will be legally challenged by us for Voter Fraud and State Election Fraud,” he said in one message, without elaborating on what precisely that would involve. “STOP THE COUNT!” he exclaimed in another tweet.

Rebuking the president, Twit-

ter labeled some of the messages “disputed” and said they “might be misleading about an election or other civic process.”

In any event, stopping the count now would only ensure that Biden wins the presidency, because he is leading in Arizona and Nevada – states that together would give him 270 electoral votes.

The presidential contest was not the only tight race drawing attention. A key Georgia Senate race that could decide the majority in the chamber grew even closer as Sen. David Perdue, a Republican, saw his vote share slip under 50 percent in his race against Jon Ossoff, a Democrat. If neither wins a majority, the race would head to a January runoff, setting up the prospect of a hotly contested battle for two Senate seats in Georgia.

A runoff is already planned in the special election for the state’s other seat.

On Thursday, an array of Trump’s political surrogates fanned out to some of the contested states to rally his supporters. And the president’s lawyers filed lawsuits in several states questioning the integrity of the vote count in hopes of slowing down the process.

He suffered two legal setbacks Thursday when judges in Georgia and Michigan ruled against his campaign. But Trump notched a minor victory in Pennsylvania when a state appellate court acceded to its request to force Philadelphia election officials to grant its election observers better access to areas where workers are counting ballots.

With the counting proceeding slowly in the West, much of the focus Thursday fell on Pennsylvania, where a victory would deliver Biden the presidency no matter the results in the other states, the top election official in the state said Thursday evening that counties were “still counting” and did not offer any timetable for when the tally would be complete.

Trump’s lead in the state, about 26,000 votes as of 9:50 p.m. Central, was shrinking as mail-in ballots were counted in the heavily Democratic cities and suburbs.

The two parties held dueling news conferences in Philadelphia early in the day, with Trump’s supporters insisting his lead would hold statewide and the city’s Democrats, led by former Rep. Robert A. Brady, unveiling an analysis of the remaining vote

count that concluded Biden would win Pennsylvania convincingly.

In Georgia, the counting of ballots in numerous counties continued to erode Trump’s advantage in the traditionally Republican state: By Thursday night, he was leading by about 1,900 votes out of nearly 5 million cast.

Tens of thousands of ballots remained to be counted in the state late in the day, including many in Chatham County, a Democratic-leaning county along the Georgia coast that is home to Savannah, and many thousands more from Atlanta-area counties that also lean Democratic.

Georgia’s Republican Party has said it plans to bring up to a dozen lawsuits in the state.

In Arizona, Biden’s lead was down to about 46,000 votes, significantly less than it was on election night. There are several hundred thousand ballots left to count, with many coming from Phoenix’s Maricopa County.

Adrian Fontes, the Democrat who oversees elections in Maricopa County, home to Phoenix, said that officials would continue to release updates daily at 8 p.m. Central, including over the weekend.

“We’re plugging along and making it happen,” Fontes said.

The vote count in Maricopa has grown tense, however, since several armed protesters showed up at the county office Wednesday night. On Thursday afternoon, about 200 supporters of Trump also gathered in front of the headquarters of the Arizona Republican Party after a protest earlier in the day involving about 50 Trump supporters dissipated in front of City Hall in Phoenix.

Some in the crowd held signs reading “Don’t Steal Elections,” “Shame on Fox News” and “Recall Fontes.” (Fox News called Arizona for Biden on Tuesday night, inflaming Trump supporters.)

Biden led by just over 11,000 votes in Nevada, but local officials in Las Vegas announced Thursday that 51,000 ballots from Clark County there were being tallied and would be announced Friday. Biden was winning the county by about 8 percentage points. If he wins the bulk of the new votes, it would make it almost impossible for Trump to take the state, because about 70 percent of Nevada’s voters live in Clark County.

In a briefing with reporters, Jennifer O’Malley Dillon, Biden’s campaign manager, acknowledged that his leads in Arizona and Nevada might tighten or otherwise fluctuate. It was a departure from her position the day earlier when she referred to a “historic victory in a place like Arizona,” though she still expressed optimism about victories in both states.

STUDENTS

From page A1

tin. Though she attended all of her classes from noon to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, Zuñiga, who is originally from Mexico, found herself on edge – checking the news, falling behind on lectures and worrying about family members who live in deep red areas of Texas.

“I had massive anxiety the whole day (on Election Day),” said Zuñiga. “I’m still a student. I still have to do well in class. It’s frustrating.”

With the race still close, students have tried to find ways to cope while maintaining social distancing guidelines. This means no large watch parties, but UT-Austin senior Jared Hrebenar, 21, said he had a small gathering to watch election coverage on the rooftop of his apartment.

Other students have focused on passion projects or new hobbies to distract themselves, Hrebenar added.

At Prairie View A&M University, graduate student Ocie Miles, 22, said the nervousness is palatable, with many students worried about what this election could mean for the historically black university. The college is located in the predominately white and Republican Waller County where several rallies for President Donald Trump have been held.

“We’re feeling very unsafe,” said Miles, adding that there have also been attempts to vandalize a Black Lives Matter mural on campus and fears of a Civil War stemming from the country’s divide and heightened awareness about racism.

Hrebenar said some students are “half-paying attention” to their Zoom classes or are skipping them all together, watching the news intently as results are updated.



Melissa Phillip / Staff photographer

Participants listen to Mayor Sylvester Turner speak on Oct. 13 during a march to the polls event to kick off early voting at Texas Southern University.

For many, the election is deeply personal, he said.

Hrebenar, who is gay, said depending on how the election goes, same-sex marriage could be prohibited by the U.S. Supreme Court. “I could lose that right for myself personally.”

Stephen F. Austin University senior Caroline Metersky, 21, said some of her friends at the Nacogdoches college have taken to drinking, and at least one friend went on a stress baking spree of which Metersky reaped the benefits in the form of a surplus of cookies. Others have taken their voices to social media, some-

“For some, getting an education is an escape. To others, it’s a very small thing when the world is on fire.”

Ali Zaidi, 21, UT student

times arguing with friends and strangers or trying to bring awareness to the election.

“It sometimes feels like that’s all you can do during the pandemic,” said University of Houston student Elizabeth Bergeron,

19. Bergeron, a sophomore in UH’s exploratory studies program, said she had been using social media to encourage students to vote, educating herself on the voting process and checking on friends to make sure that they safely made it to and from the polls.

Since Election Day, she’s been monitoring her news app every hour, texting her boyfriend about results and crunching numbers to predict a possible outcome.

“It’s so tight,” Bergeron said of the election. “A lot of us, all we can do is pray. That’s how we feel at this point.”

Dr. William Elder, chair of the department of behavioral and social sciences at the UH College of Medicine, said the concerns are understandable and that for many students, this has been their first real awareness of the political process.

“Some have very real threatening experiences that are fresh on their minds,” Elder said. “That freshness of that experience and how personally they’re involved and their risks is going to affect them.”

Stepping away from social media could also be helpful in giving students peace of mind, Elder said.

Elder advises students to assess the root of their fears or nervousness by taking their anxieties to paper or having a supportive discussion with someone they trust who might have experienced what they’re going through.

Focusing on schoolwork varies from student to student.

“For some, getting an education is an escape. To others, it’s a very small thing when the world is on fire,” said Ali Zaidi, 21, a government and Middle Eastern studies major at UT. “I’m not sure what the right answer is. I just know everyone is exhausted. The professors included.”

While some professors have kept to their syllabuses, many have been accommodating, canceling classes, giving extensions or offering excused absences on Election Day for those who wanted to tune into the news, Meter-sky and Zaidi said.

“We’re all grinding to a halt,” Zaidi said. “We’re fatigued from a year that seems like it will never end and an election that seems like it will never end. It’s hard to pretend things are normal when there are so many existential crises going on.”

brittany.britto@chron.com

FROM THE COVER

EL PASO

From page A1

more deaths under investigation. Recently, more than 1,000 new cases have been reported each day. The county’s positivity rate – the percentage of tests that come back positive for the virus – has soared to nearly 24 percent. With a total case count of 58,429, the per capita rate here is more than twice that of Harris County.

This year, cities along the Texas-Mexico boundary have been hammered by the virus. Their populations are disproportionately Latino and low-income and have higher rates of pre-existing conditions when compared with national averages. In July, the Rio Grande Valley – a region with 1.3 million residents and no public hospital – saw crisis levels of coronavirus-related hospitalizations and deaths. Now, along that same Rio Grande that defines the U.S. border, El Paso is suffering the same.

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department has sent disaster medical aid and trauma care teams to El Paso. The city has converted its convention center into a medical ward and testing site. The public hospital, University Medical Center, has set up tents in its parking lot to tend to patients. Surrounding them are mobile medical units sent from across Texas.

The death toll here is expected to soar in coming weeks. The county has installed a fourth mobile morgue unit in the medical examiner’s parking lot. Funeral homes that 15 months ago were burying the bodies of those killed in the Walmart mass shooting are now tending to COVID-19-ravaged bodies.

The Perches Funeral Home, which owns six homes in El Paso, converted its downtown chapel into a cooler that quickly filled with bodies. Overall, its coolers in El Paso are full, holding nearly 200 bodies. Its location in Las Cruces, N.M., is also full, with 100 bodies. In Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, Perches’ three coolers are full of bodies, totaling 200, and the business is building a fourth.

“What can you do? Every day you wake up for another COVID funeral and hope you don’t hear bad news from your own family,” said Christopher Lujan, 43, manager of Sunset Funeral Homes. “We’re all hurting right now.”

‘The two cities’

On both sides of the border, 11 family members of Beatriz Escajeda, 63, have battled COVID-19.

“We are responsible because we go and take it there or we go and bring it here. El Paso, Ciudad Juárez – the two cities have a lot to do with it. A lot,” she said.

The porous border El Paso shares with Juárez was mentioned by doctors, COVID-19 survivors and funeral managers as one of a few possible explanations for the coronavirus’ surge in the region.

In the Mexican state of Chihuahua, the coronavirus indicators are in the red zone. Juárez has re-



Photos by Bob Owen / Staff photographer

Vehicles line up for coronavirus testing offered by the state in a parking lot near the University of Texas at El Paso on Oct. 29. The city has converted its convention center into a medical ward.



Adela Santiago, who lives outside El Paso and is recovering from COVID-19, has lost two close friends to the coronavirus.

ported 12,000 positive cases and over 1,100 deaths. The figures are much less than El Paso’s, but the true counts are believed to be much higher. Testing has been difficult to access in Juárez, with private companies charging more than \$100.

“There are ways we’re responding to health care here, but it doesn’t matter if people are going across the border,” Days said, adding that cooler temperatures, the start of school and league sports and the flu season are feeding the surge.

Leaders of both cities, united physically and culturally, have begun pointing fingers. Juárez Mayor Armando Cabada recently asked Mexico’s federal government to block travelers from the U.S., according to the El Paso Times. Now, U.S. citizens and legal residents can move back and forth across the border, as well as Mexican nationals crossing for work deemed essential.

“I do think the border here is a big reason why we’re having a surge,” Days said. “We were doing really well for a while, and then I think we got complacent.”

At the end of September, Escajeda visited her son in Juárez.

“We don’t know if he got it from me or I got it from him,” Escajeda said. But days afterward, she started vomiting and experiencing intense nausea. Then her whole body hurt, followed by a feeling that someone was pressing on her throat, closing her windpipe. By the time the ambulance came, Escajeda’s hands and lips were purple from lack of oxygen.

She was in the hospital for three days while her son battled coronavirus at home in Juárez. Two days after she was discharged Oct. 22, her husband was taken in an ambulance.

He’s been hospitalized ever since.

“On both sides, we let our guard down. We started thinking we could open up and relax. As soon as we relaxed, it started again,” she said.

Brandy Wyche, 45, manages a shop called Wave at the entrance to El Paso on the international bridge to Juárez. She said that in the last month, the shop had begun to get busy again. The influx of customers has soothed her financial concerns, she said, but heightened her health concerns.

“We couldn’t get people out of

here fast enough. It started worrying me,” Wyche said. “It was the outfits. They were party outfits. I’m like ‘Where are you going with these?’ And that’s when they talk about the house parties and quinceañeras.”

Restaurants were open to dining in at 75 percent capacity until mid-October, when positivity rates had already begun to spike, and Mayor Dee Margo ordered occupancy maximums reduced to 50 percent. Still, last week groups of people were congregating alongside each other in restaurant bars and cycling next to each other on gym bikes. People entered restaurants in masks and took them off for hours during long group dinners.

Throughout the last few months, enforcement has been minimal in El Paso, with few citations issued for folks gathering in large groups or not wearing masks, according to recently released enforcement data by the city.

Last week, El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego ordered a shutdown of all nonessential businesses and services effective. But Margo quickly rebuffed the order.

Some gyms and dine-in restaurants still opened amid the squabble between the two officials. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton weighed in, suing the county judge. The El Paso Sheriff’s Department has committed to enforcing the shutdown. The city police, however, said they would not.

“Our hospitals are at capacity, and our medical professionals are overwhelmed,” Samaniego tweeted last week. “If we don’t respond we will see unprecedented levels of death.”

‘Hard to survive’

Santiago, the woman whose home is next to the border wall, lives in San Elizario, southeast of El Paso and just a few miles from where she grew up in Mexico.

Her parents worked illegally in

El Paso when she was young, and they crossed the river frequently, sometimes bringing Santiago and her siblings when they were out of school. Their home was a one-room cardboard shack in Juárez, their bathroom a wooden covering a few feet away.

She dropped out of school in sixth grade because her parents couldn’t afford the books, transportation and other expenses. She started working, helping her mother clean houses in the U.S. At 16, she crossed the border on her own with a visa and never moved back. She married a U.S. citizen at 19 and obtained a green card.

She has worked odd jobs: house cleaner, home health provider, babysitter.

For a home, she picked one close to the Rio Grande because glimpses of the river bring back childhood memories of her siblings playing and splashing in it while her mother washed clothes. It gives her hope for better times.

She’s looked at it often since the pandemic hit.

In March, her work as a home health aide ended. Bills for her house, lights and internet mounted. Stressed and vulnerable, she’s been going to food bank distributions, seeking donations and accepting services from local churches and nonprofits to keep afloat.

At the beginning of October, as businesses were gradually reopening, she received her first call to return to work as a health care provider. But just days later, Santiago got sick. It was COVID-19.

Santiago has four adult children and lives with her husband. She’s spent hundreds of dollars on medical care for her illness, pushing her further into debt.

Last month, a friend stopped by her house to place food and items on her doorstep and called her afterward. “Mira, mi reina, te traje esto,” she said. *I brought you this.*

“Those were the last words I heard from her,” Santiago said, tears in her eyes. “She was so strong, she seemed invincible. She seemed fine, and then in less than three weeks, she was gone. I thought, that’s not possible.”

Her friend had died from COVID-19 – the second close friend of hers to fall victim to the disease.

Santiago has to remain quarantined for about another week. But even then, there is little work for those with her skills. She’s been getting by on her husband’s pension of a few hundred dollars a month and her savings.

“At this point, what matters to me the most is my health and the health of others. I don’t care if I’m left without light, if I’m left without water, if I’m left with nothing. I can survive that,” she said.

“These are things in life, right? We have to get over the pandemic,” Santiago continued. “Tene-mos que echarle ganas, todas las ganas del mundo, para salir adelante.” *We have to try as hard as we can to make it through.*

sfosterfrau@express-news.net

TEXAS

From page A1

fornia in recording the highest number of positive coronavirus tests in the U.S. since the pandemic began.

Gov. Greg Abbott sent medical staff and supplies to El Paso and the Panhandle last month, but has otherwise been reluctant to intervene or acknowledge the outbreak. He has not held a news conference on the pandemic in over a month, and told a reporter last week that “guardrails” are in place to increase public health restrictions in regions where COVID patients make up more than 15 percent of hospital capacity. A statewide mask order also remains in effect.

“Just because people are testing positive for COVID, that in and of itself is not a sign of danger,” he said at a campaign event. “A sign of danger is when you have increased hospitalizations.”

A spokeswoman for the governor reiterated that Thursday, and said the state is “working closely with local officials to quickly provide the resources needed to address these spikes and keep Texans safe.”

“The state’s coordination efforts go hand-in-hand with enforcing the existing protocols, a strategy that proved effective in slowing the spread over the summer and containing COVID-19 while allowing businesses to safely operate,” she said in a statement.

Abbott had previously designat-



Godofredo A. Vázquez / Staff photographer

Gov. Greg Abbott, shown with Sen. John Cornyn at a “Back the Blue” event Oct. 28 in Houston, has not held a news conference on the coronavirus pandemic in more than a month.

ed a test positivity rate over 10 percent as a “red flag” but has since abandoned that metric. Last month he allowed local officials to reopen bars in regions where COVID-19 patients fill less than 15 percent of the hospital beds.

At the same time, Texas cities and counties are on notice not to order lockdowns or take other restrictive measures such as curfews.

In El Paso, hospitals are overflowing with patients, and the

county has tried imposing a two-week lockdown to curb the spread. Attorney General Ken Paxton moved to intervene last week, issuing a letter to the county judge and seeking a court order to block the restrictions on Tuesday. A ruling is expected Friday, according to the El Paso Times.

The outbreak in Texas comes as cases are exploding nationwide. Health experts with PolicyLab, at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, said youth sports and small

household gatherings are likely driving the surge, especially in areas where temperatures are dropping.

“As the weather becomes colder, these gatherings are taking place indoors, often in the absence of strict mask use, creating the perfect conditions for a virus that can spread among people who are crowded into a poorly ventilated space,” they said in a post.

On Thursday, the number of active cases in Central Texas hit its

highest levels since August, and health officials there said more than half of them have involved adults between the ages of 20 and 39. That is a trend similar to what officials saw in the lead-up to the summer wave.

The numbers are also rising in Harris County. The positive test rate is currently 8.1 percent, compared to 5.6 percent a month ago. The rate had gradually declined from the July 6 high-water mark of 21.9 before it began rising the past month.

Houston-area hospitalizations are up, too. Hospital systems that belong to the Texas Medical Center admitted 125 COVID-19 patients throughout the area Wednesday, compared to 102 a day last week and 76 a day a month ago.

Dr. Luis Ostrosky, an infectious disease specialist at UTHealth in Houston, said the biggest outbreaks are in regions that were not as hard-hit earlier this year, while cities that were, including Houston and San Antonio, are seeing slower upticks. He expects that to continue until Thanksgiving, and worries that family gatherings will lead to new outbreaks.

“It’s after Thanksgiving that worries me at this point,” Ostrosky said.

Van Deusen said deaths are beginning to pick up statewide – a sign that infections are leading to serious illness. The state reported 133 deaths on Thursday, and has recorded more than 18,400 COVID deaths since March.

jeremy.blackman@chron.com

CITY | STATE

USPS: 815 mail ballots located at Texas sites

By Benjamin Wermund
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service found about 815 mailed ballots in sweeps of Texas postal facilities Wednesday, according to documents filed in an ongoing federal lawsuit over undelivered mail ballots.

The sweeps were ordered by a federal district judge in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday after USPS data showed about 300,000 ballots across the country had been received for mail processing but not scanned for delivery by Sunday.

USPS said the 815 ballots it found in Texas facilities were being delivered by 5 p.m. Wednesday. State law requires counties to count ballots received by 5 p.m. the day after the election. It's unclear whether the ballots have been counted yet, but it's unlikely the small number of votes will have an outcome on election results.

The Wednesday sweeps



Tamir Kalifa / New York Times

Out of 300,000 ballots found nationwide, the Postal Service says 232 were in Houston, 50 in San Antonio, 322 in Fort Worth, 35 in Dallas and five in Austin.

turned up 232 ballots in a Houston facility and 50 in a San Antonio facility. Another 322 were found in a Fort Worth facility, 35 were found in Dallas and five were found in Austin.

The court battle stems from an August lawsuit filed by voting rights groups challenging cost-cutting measures the Trump administration was implementing at the Postal Service, arguing they could slow delivery of mailed ballots and disen-

franchise some voters. The Trump administration later said it would suspend those measures until after the election.

Many of the mailed-in ballots found in Postal Service sweeps nationwide ordered by the judge were in swing states such as Arizona and Pennsylvania, where elections officials are still tallying votes in the closely contested presidential race.

ben.wermund@chron.com



Photos by Lisa Krantz / Staff photographer

Charlene Uhl, right, releases balloons Thursday for daughter Haley Krueger and the 25 other victims of the shooting three years ago at First Baptist Church.

Family, friends honor the 26 massacre victims of Sutherland Springs

By Jacob Beltran
STAFF WRITER

Several weeks before the 2017 mass shooting at Sutherland Springs' First Baptist Church, 16-year-old Haley Krueger arrived home from school and saw her mother's boyfriend sitting on the couch.

She grabbed a Bible from her room, slammed it against Lance Gay's chest and said, "You need Jesus!"

Three years later, Haley's words are emblazoned in bright pink on teal T-shirts, her favorite colors. About 15 family members and friends who gathered at La Vernia City Park wore the shirts to commemorate the third anniversary of the massacre Thursday.

The words make Gay and Haley's mother, Charlene Uhl, laugh for a moment through tears and somber silence as they remember Haley's rambunctious spirit.

The group released 26 white and silver balloons, one for each victim of one of the deadliest shootings in recent history. They also let fly nine candlelit lanterns, one for each child killed.

The balloons read, "Forever in our hearts you'll stay. We will love you and remember you every single day."

On Nov. 5, 2017, a gunman at the church killed 26 people and wounded 20 others.

Haley was at the service that day, helping with a church breakfast.

"It's day by day, sometimes second by second. It's really hard," Uhl said of



Charlene Uhl walks with family and friends to release balloons for her daughter Haley Krueger, 16, and the other victims of the 2017 shooting.

her continued healing. "I try and honor her the best that I can."

Uhl has since formed a group called Haley's Kids, which collects and distributes presents for children each year around Christmas.

Last year, they helped 85 children, she said.

The group has also assisted children in need of school supplies.

"If someone needs help, I try to help them," Uhl said.

At Thursday's gathering, there were no big speeches or rousing chants.

As the sun set on the breezy afternoon, the group shuffled toward the perfect spot to release their balloons. The sounds of an announcer prepping for a football game echoed as park-goers sat along picnic tables or jogged on the trail.

A group of first responders from Wilson County Emergency Services District 3 stood watch from a

distance near two ambulances as the family released the first set of balloons.

Gay, 43, broke into tears as he recalled the moment he shared with Haley, a former La Vernia High School student who loved children so much that she wanted to be a neonatal intensive care unit nurse when she grew up.

"She always wanted to make people smile," Gay said.

"If (kids) were sad, she'd run through the house in her socks and slide along the board to make herself fall," Uhl recalled. "That's just the kind of person she was."

Earlier Thursday, the bells of First Baptist rang 26 times at 11:30 a.m., a performance that is now part of the church's by-laws.

Uhl, who was at the church, said it was an emotional experience.

"We have to move forward and honor everyone we lost," she said.

ROSS SIMONS
fabulous jewelry & great prices for more than 65 years

Pretty pearls get personal

We've combined the ever-popular pearl bracelet with the classic monogram for a signature look that's always in style.

Luminous 8-8.5mm cultured freshwater pearls are accompanied by a removable sterling silver monogram charm in an elegant script. The perfect way to personalize every outfit!



\$69

Plus Free Shipping

Cultured Pearl Bracelet with Sterling Silver Monogram Disc Charm

8-8.5mm cultured freshwater pearls. Slip-on stretch bracelet.

Please allow an extra 2-3 business days for personalization.

Also available in 8" \$79

Shown larger for detail.

Ross-Simons Item #920096

To receive this special offer, use offer code: **ADORE118**

1.800.556.7376 or visit ross-simons.com/adore

ELECTION FEVER OVER!

Time To Buy GOLD

2020 Eagle G\$50
MS 70
5763121-000
NUMISMATIC GUARANTEE CORPORATION NGC®

1 oz. Pure Gold

\$1,949 incl. s&h

Even if you are new to collecting coins, you most likely have already seen or heard about American Gold Eagles. They are the most popular, widely traded and most collected modern precious metal coins in the U.S. The best way to own them is to get the best quality coins certified in perfect Mint State 70 condition. The U.S. Mint has produced millions of coins since 1986, but only a few thousand coins have ever been certified in perfect MS70 condition. Knowledgeable coin collectors take advantage of them because of the unique combination of gold, condition and rarity.

The Federal debt was large by historical standards BEFORE the coronavirus crisis. It is a problem that is going to get a lot bigger!

The U.S. government and its counterparts all over the world are printing trillions of dollars in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Westminster Mint, "America's Rare Coin Dealer" is offering the 2020 American \$50 Gold Eagle, certified in perfect MS70 condition, for the special, low introductory price of just \$1,949. This coin is minted from one troy-ounce of pure gold.

We also offer the smaller American \$5 Gold Eagle coin, minted from 1/10 ounce of pure gold, for the special low price of \$225.

These coins are ideal for anyone looking to take physical delivery of gold in these unprecedented times. Call 1-800-647-0773 – special introductory price \$1,949 or \$225 price includes FREE insured shipping, presentation case and 30-day money back guarantee.

1-800-647-0773
Westminster Mint • 131 W. Wilson St. • Suite M-102 • Madison, WI 53703

No additional purchase required. State & local taxes may apply. Order restrictions apply, offer valid while supplies last. Allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.



Archer

Volkswagen

TAKING CARE OF CUSTOMERS SINCE 1956

Volkswagen 

Sign then Drive

 **Event**



New 2020 Volkswagen

Jetta S

\$205 MO² or 0% APR
48 Month Lease 72 MOs¹

\$1,999 Down Payment | \$0 Security Deposit



New 2020 Volkswagen

Tiguan S

\$229 MO² or 0% APR
48 Month Lease 72 MOs¹

\$1,999 Down Payment | \$1000 Lease Rebate | \$0 Security Deposit



NEW 2020 Volkswagen

Passat 2.0T SE

\$259 MO² or 0% APR
48 Month Lease 72 MOs¹

\$1,999 Down Payment | \$1000 Lease Rebate | \$0 Security Deposit

BLACK FRIDAY

0% APR for 72 MONTHS



New 2021 Volkswagen

Atlas 2.0T S

\$332 MO² or 0% APR
48 Month Lease 72 MOs¹

\$1,999 Down Payment | \$0 Security Deposit



New 2020 Volkswagen

Atlas Cross Sport 2.0T S

\$339 MO² or 0.9% APR
48 Month Lease 72 MOs¹

\$1,999 Down Payment | \$0 Security Deposit



New 2020 Volkswagen

Arteon SE

\$499 PER MONTH⁸ or 0% APR
72 MOs¹

(\$2500 DOWN, SALE PRICE \$37,825, VIN:WVWAR7AN2LE016916)

2011 Volkswagen

JETTA SPORTSWAGEN

\$6991

\$99 PER MONTH²

2014 Volkswagen

JETTA

\$7691

\$109 PER MONTH²

DIESELS IN STOCK!

2012 Volkswagen

PASSAT

\$7991

\$119 PER MONTH²

2012 Volkswagen

GOLF

\$9991

\$149 PER MONTH²

www.ArcherVW.com

10400 SOUTHWEST FRWY @ BELTWAY 8

TOLL FREE **1-866-856-7012**

1) 0% APR, 7.9% APR, No Down Payment Required. Available on New or Unused Models In Stock, Financed by Volkswagen Credit. Tier 1 and 2 up to 72 Months @ \$13.89 per \$1000 Financed, whichever comes first. 2) '20 Volkswagen Jetta S; Auto, FWD, VIN: 3VWC57B8LM085501, Sale Price \$19,637, 3) '20 Volkswagen Tiguan S; Auto, FWD, VIN: 3VV1B7AX8LM056046, Sale Price \$22,522, 4) '20 Volkswagen Passat SE; Auto, FWD, VIN: 1VWSA7A37LC017286, Sale Price \$25,206, 5) '21 Volkswagen Atlas S; Auto, FWD, VIN: 1V2AP2CAXMC502565, Sale Price \$31,244, 6) '20 Volkswagen Atlas Cross Sport S; Auto, VIN: 1V2GC2CA7LC222137, Sale Price \$31,605... 2-6) 48 Mo. Closed-End Lease, \$1,999 Down + 1st Payment (2) \$205, 3) \$229, 4) \$259, 5) \$332, 6) \$339... + acquisition fee of (\$699) = 2) \$2903, 3) \$2927, 4) \$2957, 5) \$3030, 6) \$3037... + TT&L due at lease inception (Cash or Trade). Security Deposit waived with approved Credit. 2) \$9840, 3) \$10,992, 4) \$12,432, 5) \$15,936, 6) \$16,272... total amount paid during lease term... All advertised leases) at lease end, Lessee responsible for \$350 Disposition Fee, \$.20/mile overage charge over 7,500 Miles/Year and early termination & excessive wear & tear fees, maintenance & auto insurance are customer's responsibility, penalties and other charges will be imposed for delinquent payments. 8) \$2500 Down + TT&L and dealer fees... On All New Vehicles.) With approved credit for highly qualified customers by Volkswagen Credit. Excludes TT&L/Fees. Not All Customers Qualify For Credit Approval or Advertised APR. See Us for Details. Offer not valid in Puerto Rico. Pictures & Colors For Illustration Only. Offer Ends December 4, 2020.

BLACK FRIDAY



Archer

TAKING CARE OF CUSTOMERS SINCE 1956



NEW 2021 KIA
TELLURIDE
IN STOCK



INTRODUCING
THE 1ST EVER
KIA K5



NEW 2020 KIA
FORTE LXS

SEVERAL TO CHOOSE!

\$16,988

OR

\$179 MO²

lease for 36 Months, \$1999 Due at Signing

MSRP \$20,255 Less \$1750 Kia Customer Cash Less \$1517 Archer KIA Discount Off MSRP.



NEW 2021 KIA
SELTOS S

SEVERAL TO CHOOSE!

\$21,267

OR

\$199 MO²

lease for 36 Months, \$1999 Due at Signing

MSRP \$23,240 Less \$1973 Archer KIA Discount Off MSRP.



NEW 2020 KIA
SPORTAGE LX

SEVERAL TO CHOOSE!

\$20,988

OR

\$199 MO²

lease for 36 Months, \$1999 Due at Signing

MSRP \$25,170 Less \$2750 Kia Customer Cash Less \$1432 Archer KIA Discount Off MSRP.



NEW 2020 KIA
SORENTO L

SEVERAL TO CHOOSE!

\$21,620

OR

\$279 MO²

lease for 36 Months, \$1999 Due at Signing

MSRP \$28,305 Less \$4500 Kia Customer Cash Less \$2185 Archer KIA Discount Off MSRP.

1) 36 Month Closed End Lease, \$1999 Down + TT&L due at Signing (cash or Trade). 1st payment due at Signing. Security Deposit is waived with approved credit. Total Monthly Payments: '20 Optima & Sportage: \$7164, '20 Sorento: \$7,371, '19 Sorento: \$10,044. All advertised leases in this ad include: At lease end, lessee responsible for disposition fee of \$350, early termination & excessive wear & tear fees, 12,000 Miles per year with \$.20/mile for additional miles, maintenance & auto insurance are customer's responsibility, penalties & other charges will be imposed for delinquent payments. Must take delivery by 11/30/20. Warranties include 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain and 5-year/60,000-mile basic. All warranties and roadside assistance are limited. See retailer for warranty details.

ARCHERKIA.COM

11614 S.W. FRWY @ BELLFORT

TOLL FREE **1-800-KIA CARS**

542-2277

10 YEAR

100,000 MILE WARRANTY

ARCHER RV

RV SALE!



Only

\$100

PER WEEK

RENT TO OWN

10711 S.W. FREEWAY @ BELTWAY 8 - INBOUND

713-995-8585



Countdown to BLACK FRIDAY Window Sale!

Our
Biggest
Dollar
Discount
of the Year



When it comes to protection from the elements, your **windows** are **as essential** as your roof and walls. Safeguard your home against drafts and replace your windows and patio doors **before winter.**

Now offering
virtual
appointments,
too!



November 1st–November 27th only!

\$380 OFF every window¹ + **\$880** OFF every patio door¹



PAY 0% INTEREST FOR 4 YEARS!¹

Pay no interest on your windows and patio doors for FOUR YEARS!¹
Replace your windows and patio doors this holiday season, and you'll pay no interest until November 2024.¹ It's a gift to yourself that won't put a dent in your wallet this time of year.

Inferior vinyl windows can cost you more in the long run.
Choose a poor-quality vinyl window and you'll be searching for another Black Friday window sale in a few years! Take advantage of this sale on our Fibrex® windows, and you'll be set for decades!*

We make the holiday season less stressful.
We handle the entire process—from selling to installation to the warranty—on our windows and patio doors, eliminating the middleman. And know that we've adjusted our operations to serve you in the safest way possible.

There are limited appointments available



Renewal by Andersen
is the only brand to win
every J.D. Power award
for Windows and
Patio Doors in 2020

Call to book your virtual
or in-home appointment
281-638-9843

For J.D. Power 2020 U.S. award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://www.jdpower.com/awards). ¹Offer not available in all areas. Discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to purchase of 3 or more windows and/or patio doors. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for a free Window and Patio Door Diagnosis must be made and documented between 11/1/20 and 11/27/20 with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. No interest for 48 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. Higher rates apply for customer with lower credit ratings. Financing not valid with other offers or prior purchases. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 48 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only, and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. Renewal by Andersen retailers do not assist with, counsel or negotiate financing, other than providing customers an introduction to lenders interested in financing. This Renewal by Andersen location is independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details.

ELECTION 2020

Think Bush v. Gore

Campaigns have the right to sue, but courts must be careful not to become political tools.

President Donald Trump’s campaign has turned to the courts in a long-shot bid to secure re-election.

As judges at every level do their duty to evaluate his legal claims, they must be careful not to allow themselves to be used in what appears to be a blatant attempt to defy the will of American voters.

“STOP THE COUNT,” Trump tweeted Thursday morning, echoing the chants of supporters in states where counting would not necessarily benefit him. Yet, over in Phoenix, hundreds more of his supporters were chanting “count the votes.” Why the disparate messages? Because they were based not on legal principle or some genuine concern about malfeasance but on pure partisan gamesmanship.

Trump’s desperate clinging to electoral possibilities in a race where he will again lose the popular vote by millions was assisted Wednesday by resourceful lawyering in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan and other plans to seek a recount in Wisconsin. By Thursday state judges had ruled against him in Georgia and Michigan, and a series of decisions had gone both for and against his campaign in Pennsylvania.

Trump has so far been unsuccessful in efforts to drag the U.S. Supreme Court into the fray, though the campaign asked on Wednesday for the court to strike down a three-day deadline extension for counting late-arriving but validly cast mail-in ballots.

There is no indication those lawsuits will affect the outcomes in Pennsylvania or elsewhere. But judges weighing them, and any filed by the Biden campaign, should recall the troubling legacy of the last time an un-elected body in black robes picked a winner in a presidential election.

The Bush v. Gore case in 2000 has gone down as one of the flimsiest Supreme Court decisions in modern history, and one that has damaged the court’s standing.

It ended a recount that had been ordered by the Florida Supreme Court, effectively handing the election to George W. Bush. On Thursday, former Secretary of State James Baker said that even that case only got started after the votes had been counted – twice in fact. Bush’s margin of victory was so small on Election Day that state law required a recount, which shrank the margin further to just over 500 votes statewide.

The Bush team went to court to stop manual recounts ordered by the Florida Supreme Court, a difference Baker stressed Thursday.

The case left the court itself deeply divided. David Souter, a Republican appointed by Bush’s father, dissented. Even years later, he would weep when thinking of the damage the decision had

done to the court he loved, according to Jeffrey Toobin’s 2008 book, “The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court.” Some other justices simply refused to discuss it.

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, one of the most influential associate justices in the high court’s history, would come to regret her tie-breaking vote.

In 2012, O’Connor told the Chicago Tribune editorial board the decision had marred the court’s reputation.

“It turned out the election authorities in Florida hadn’t done a real good job there and kind of messed it up,” O’Connor said. “And probably the Supreme Court added to the problem at the end of the day.”

“It took the case and decided it at a time when it was still a big election issue,” O’Connor said. “Maybe the court should have said, ‘We’re not going to take it, goodbye.’”

The lesson from 2000 is not that Gore was the true winner of the election, as many Democrats still believe. By intervening to stop the recount of highly disputed vote totals, the court deprived Bush of the legitimacy he might otherwise have earned had the recount showed him the winner, as many subsequent analyses did. It also deprived the American people of the sense of ownership they should always have in an election, no matter which candidate wins.

Former Vice President Joe Biden’s comments Thursday that only the voters have the power to decide who wins were welcome – and they stand in stark contrast to Trump’s pre- and post-election refrains about electoral fraud on the American public and his baseless declaration of victory in the wee hours Wednesday while millions of ballots across the nation had yet to be counted.

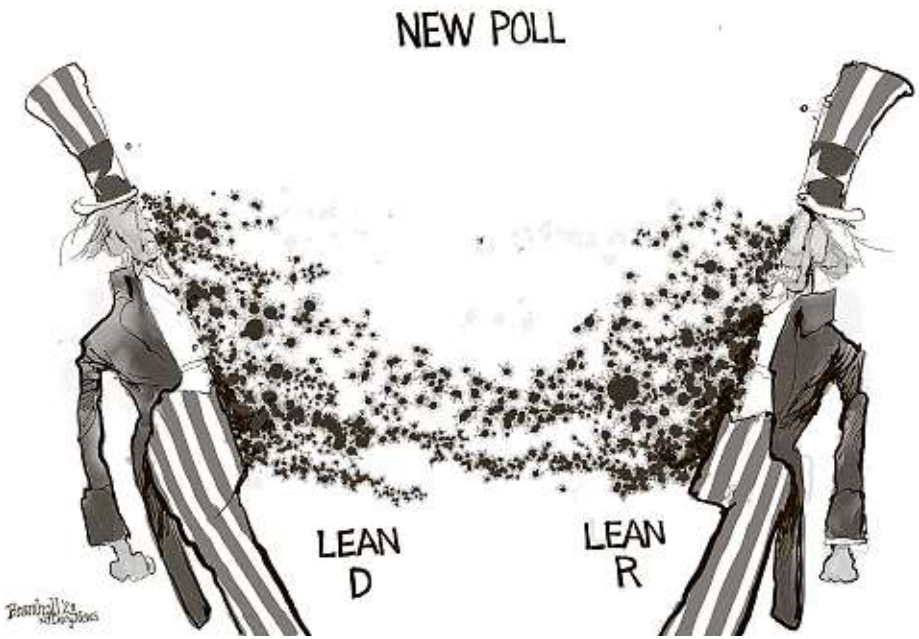
Elections can be messy, and all candidates have the right to ask judges to decide thorny questions of law should they arise. But no good can come of a court allowing itself to be used as a political tool.

As Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in his dissent in the 2000 case:

“Although we may never know with complete confidence the identity of the winner in this year’s Presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation’s confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law.”

Trump has spent most of his term poking more holes in Americans’ confidence in the judiciary. Judges must be careful not to aid him in that effort should they be asked to weigh in on disputes of law.

Now that the will of the people appears to be coming into focus, the courts should intervene only to clarify, not to obscure and obstruct.



LETTERS

Every vote must be counted

Remember our military

Regarding “Count favoring Biden as Trump vows legal barrage,” (A1, Nov. 5): If every vote counts, then count every vote.

No one wants their effort overlooked. Let America really have its voice heard. The White House is the people’s house. America decides who sleeps there.

As the daughter of a military man and as the wife of a military man, I am well aware of the problem of absentee voting. Many times in past elections I have wondered if my vote really got counted because I had to mail an absentee vote. The idea that those ballots are not counted until Election Day or shortly thereafter can be unfair if they can be so blatantly disregarded at the last minute. Please, do not disenfranchise all the Americans who are separated from the polls because they are serving worldwide. Count every vote. Stopping the count is a disservice to all of America.

Peg Sauter, Houston

Now that Joe Biden is on the verge of winning the popular vote and the Electoral College, will Democrats stop demonizing the Electoral College as a pariah and embrace it as a good and beneficial political procedure to protect the country from the tyranny of the majority?

J. Jones, La Porte

Global poverty

The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed decades-worth of progress in reducing global poverty. Though domestic attention on the pandemic is a priority and crucial, we must acknowledge that the United States must take part in the global effort to fight the spike in poverty caused by the pandemic. The U.S. can do so with emergency supplemental resources for the International Affairs Budget. By the end of 2020, the pandemic could leave 265 million people in starvation, and 500 million more people could be pushed into poverty. As a result of the pandemic, over



Spencer Platt / TNS

Protesters gather Wednesday in Philadelphia as Pennsylvania officials continue to count ballots.

half of the entire world population could be living in poverty. An investment in foreign aid and global COVID-19 relief efforts translates into promotion of stability and national security as well as improvement of the U.S. economy and the state of global health. Stronger food security and economies in impoverished areas could reduce violence, thus contributing to national security. Additionally, the world’s poor are the biggest untapped market – those who rise out of poverty could potentially boost the U.S. and world economy. The United States’ failure to contribute to COVID-19 relief efforts in the poorest regions of the world could have long-term consequences. Without U.S. aid, these countries will continue to spiral further into poverty, threatening international security and peace.

Mizuki Kai, Houston

BIBLE VERSE

I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways.

Psalms 85:8

We need to reform the U.S. election process



Cal Thomas says pollsters never get it right; the campaign season should last only a few weeks, not years; and paper ballots don’t fit in a digital age.

The pollsters got it wrong again. Some claimed going into Tuesday’s election that Joe Biden had an unbeatable margin of 17 points in some states. Pundits claimed Republicans would lose between five and 15 seats in the House. It appears they’ve picked up a few. And because final results will not be known until states count mail-in votes and end their extended vote-counting processes, Republicans could pick up a few more.

Why do some continue to employ these pollsters who miss the “silent majority,” or in this case “shy” Trump voters, many of whom refused to speak with or hung up on their robocalls? Some conservatives believe it is part of an effort by the left to discourage conservative voters so they will give up and not bother to vote. Instead, they showed up in person and in huge numbers at polling places across the country.

Then there’s the bad practice of calling races with a fraction of the vote counted. On Fox News Tuesday night one of the members on their “decision desk” was interviewed after Arizona was called for Biden with a small percentage of the votes counted, prompting howls from the Trump campaign and anger from some viewers.

Why is this necessary? Some would argue, credibly, that the result can be to drive down voter turnout by discouraging people who might think Trump lost.

There’s a golden oldies song and a movie with the same title that featured a for-

tune teller and potion mixer. The song and film were called “Love Potion Number 9.” The fortune teller was named Madame Rue. I think I’ll consult her before the next election. Her predictions might be more reliable than the ones by these failed pollsters.

This is – because it isn’t over – another multibillion-dollar election. Remember campaign finance reform? Gone with the wind. In Sen. Mitch McConnell’s Kentucky election victory, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, nearly \$100 million was contributed and spent. Much of the money came from people outside the state.

It was the same in South Carolina where incumbent Lindsey Graham won re-election in a hotly contested race. Graham joked that the \$107 million contributed to his opponent, Jaime Harrison, was a “bad investment.”

We need to reform the election process. Campaigning should be made shorter as they do in the United Kingdom. Their election season usually takes weeks, not years like ours. On Tuesday night, some anchors were already speculating who might run for president in 2024. Ridiculous.

The paper ballot – even those scanned by machines when they work – is a relic of the past. We live in a digital age. Why can’t we vote digitally in a manner that would instantly confirm our votes and send them to a secure database? Having to wait days and possibly weeks to determine the next



Olivier Tournon / AFP via Getty Images

Poll workers continue to count ballots Thursday inside the Maricopa County Election Department in Phoenix.

president reduces the credibility of our election process and makes us a laughing-stock in the eyes of the rest of the world.

It would be a shame if this election winds up in the Supreme Court, widening the divide in our already fractured country.

Many were hoping for a decisive outcome, whichever candidate won. It looks like we are not going to get it and the ran-

cor, name-calling and demonstrations will continue.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Who will step forward and call for meaningful reforms? I’m going to ask Madame Rue.

Thomas writes a syndicated column for the Tribune Content Agency. Readers may email him at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

FOUNDED 1901 • A HEARST NEWSPAPER

JOHN C. McKEON, Publisher | john.mckeon@chron.com

JACK SWEENEY, Chairman | jack.sweeney@chron.com

STEVE RILEY, Executive Editor | steve.riley@chron.com

MARIA REEVE, Managing Editor / Content | maria.reeve@chron.com

MARK LORANDO, Managing Editor / Audience | mark.lorando@chron.com

LISA FALKENBERG, VP / Editor of Opinion | lisa.falkenberg@chron.com

MICHAEL LINDENBERGER, Deputy Opinion Editor | michael.lindenberger@chron.com

Send letters to the editor:

Viewpoints c/o Houston Chronicle, P.O. Box 4260, Houston, Texas 77210 or viewpoints@chron.com. We welcome and encourage letters and emails from readers. Letters must include name, address and telephone numbers for verification purposes only. All letters are subject to editing.

OUTLOOK

President is sabotaging his own country



Nicholas Kristof says Trump is attacking the integrity of the U.S. electoral system and undermining the peaceful transition of power.

In the end, the biggest interference in America's elections didn't come from Russia, or China, or Iran or North Korea. It came from the president of the United States.

As I write this, we still don't know for certain who won the election, although Joe Biden seems in a strong position to win the White House and Republicans to retain the Senate.

But we do know for certain that President Donald Trump lied to the public early Wednesday when he claimed victory and sought a judicial rescue from voters. His brazenness undermines our election system and the very idea of a peaceful transition of power.

It's hard to imagine that the Supreme Court, however politicized it may have become, would go along with such a charade. I don't believe that Trump, if he loses in a clear-cut way, will be able to remain in office; if he tries to barricade himself in the Oval Office, he'll be escorted out Jan. 20.

Yet what Trump has already done is what the Russians have always tried to do: cast doubt on American elections and destabilize the United States. The 2018 federal indictment of Russian election hackers alleged that they were engaged in "information warfare against the United States of America," by fostering confusion and distrust that impair the integrity of elections and damage the legitimacy of the government that emerges. That's precisely what Trump is now doing. He may hug and kiss American flags and pretend to be a great patriot, but this is a betrayal of our

country.

If Biden wins after this poisoning of the chalice, he will inherit a badly divided country after an election that many will deem illegitimate, and it will be harder to govern and more difficult for the United States to exert influence around the world. It's one thing for Russian hackers in St. Petersburg to sabotage our government; it's far more tragic when the president does the same from the White House.

Vice President Mike Pence spoke right after Trump and did not repeat the president's claim of victory or his call for the courts to intervene. But Pence let his boss's lies stand, and most leading Republicans have also kept quiet.

Trump's latest attack on the integrity of America's electoral system and on the peaceful transfer of power – the litmus test for any democracy – comes after years of other lies and efforts to discredit the electoral system. And yes, it's true that it is an electoral system that has obvious undemocratic elements, but these aren't what Trump has been talking about.

Biden will easily win the popular vote by millions of ballots, yet the outcome is in doubt only because of the Electoral College. Between 2000 and 2016, in two of the three times when Republicans won the presidency, it was while losing the popular vote. And if the Supreme Court does weigh in on this election, one-third of the justices were appointed by Trump after he lost the popular vote by 2.9 million votes.

The Senate has similar issues. The current Democrat senators represent 14 million more voters than the Senate Repub-



John Locher / Associated Press

Trump supporters protest the vote Wednesday outside the Clark County Election Department in Las Vegas.

licans, but it's the Democrats who are in the minority because of the outsized influence of low-population states.

Sen. Mike Lee, a Republican from Utah, has bluntly said, "we're not a democracy" but a republic (actually, we're both). Lee, along with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, even recommended repealing the 17th Amendment, which provides for direct election of senators. If senators were again chosen by state legislatures, Republicans would gain a few seats.

More broadly, much of the Republican Party seems to fear voters and believes that its best path to victory is to suppress voting or even, in the case of Harris County, Texas, discard ballots. We no longer have poll taxes and grandfather clauses to disenfranchise Black voters, but GOP officials modernized the barriers to voting by people of color. One careful study published in *Scientific American* last year found that voters in predominantly Black neighborhoods are 74 percent more likely to have to wait more than 30 minutes to vote than residents of white neighborhoods.

Trump himself said in March that he

opposed efforts to encourage more voting because "if you agreed to it, you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again."

Yet here's another thought: Perhaps Republicans and Democrats alike have been too quick to assume that higher turnouts are inevitably bad for GOP prospects.

This election appears to have had the highest turnout in 120 years, and Biden and Trump may end up as the No. 1 and No. 2 winners of the popular vote in American history. Trump had the support of millions more voters in this election than four years ago.

According to exit polls, Trump won votes from 18 percent of Black men and 36 percent of Latino men, along with those of 58 percent of white men.

The Democrats had a great deal going for them in this election: a nominee viewed as soothing and electable, streams of new outrages from Trump, frequent revelations of corruption or improprieties involving him, denunciations of him from family members and former aides, and above all a mismanaged pandemic that killed 230,000 Americans and devastated the economy.

Yet many voters saw all this and were unfazed. Dr. Irwin Redlener, an expert in managing health disasters, says that Trump won nine of the 10 states with the highest prevalence of coronavirus.

So as I fret about Trump's efforts to do Russia's work and delegitimize this election, I also keep wrestling with this question: How is it that so many millions of Americans watched Trump for four years, suffered the pain of his bungling of COVID-19, listened to his stream of lies, observed his attacks on American institutions – and then voted for him in greater numbers than before?

Kristof is a New York Times columnist.

Teachers, parents, HISD need clarity from TEA

By Heather Golden

Even as all eyes are on the election, the coronavirus pandemic worsens and parents of children in the Houston Independent School District must decide by Nov. 13 whether to send their children to school in person for the next six-week period or keep them at home learning virtually.

My older daughter, a freshman in high school, started back in-person the second six weeks. We sent her because she needed to meet some classmates. Her school also chose to use a hybrid model, which made it feel safer for her to go. My daughter in middle school, however, has stayed home. I have not decided if we will continue remote instruction or move her to face-to-face learning. I'm feeling unsure of what would be the best decision for her; since the beginning of the school year, safety standards have changed and some have disappeared. That's unacceptable for students and teachers. We need the state and districts to work together on science-based standards.

Everyone has taken a crash course in public health this year. However, families with school-

aged children had a steeper hill to climb during this time. We mastered recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for opening schools and compared them to guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics. We cross-referenced those guidelines with safety plans the Texas Education Agency, school districts and campuses developed. We worked to understand documents stating desks will be 6 feet apart "where possible," studied information about campus ventilation systems and asked whether or not desk shields would be allowed in classrooms. We wondered if teachers felt safe returning in-person.

The Houston Independent School District created the Communicable Disease Plan and the HISD COVID-19 Gauge. The plan contains the policies and procedures the district and campuses will follow when coronavirus cases pop up in schools. The gauge stated concisely what activities are allowed to occur on campus at specified levels of community spread, as measured by Harris County's 14-day positivity rate. Both documents set high standards that parents knew could require schools to close

frequently for positive COVID-19 cases. However, we also knew protecting the health of everyone on campus was the top priority.

Small course corrections are expected in newly charted territory. HISD quickly adjusted campus closure requirements for positive cases during the first week of in-person classes. Rather than shut down for one presumed case, a school would close for two confirmed cases. I know I was surprised over a dozen campuses reported cases and promptly closed under the first standard that week. That change made sense because frequent and abrupt campus closures are difficult for families to navigate.

However, when HISD stipulated concrete measures on the COVID-19 Gauge and then ignored them, I was among the many who became reasonably concerned. HISD created a community spread threshold stipulating a 7 percent positivity rate in Harris County would trigger a move to online instruction with students remaining at home. In the past weeks that community spread standard was met and promptly disregarded by HISD. The district then discarded the metric by removing all thresholds from the

COVID-19 Gauge. As a result, families do not know when schools could close due to infection rate increases. This change breaches the trust families had in the district. Teachers also took to social media and expressed dismay that their health and safety are not valued by HISD.

HISD walked back the positivity rate guidance for returning to virtual instruction largely because of rules written by TEA governing how districts are required to handle the pandemic. The rules state, "School systems must provide on-campus attendance as an option for students." Translated, this means HISD must provide in-person instruction to students who have chosen it for the district to continue to receive its funding from the state. This provision removes the HISD Board of Education's authority to mandate virtual-only instruction based on the virus' spread in Harris County. The state used this mandate to sideline our locally elected officials and prevent them from deciding what is best for students and employees in HISD regarding the pandemic. While it is true that TEA granted waivers to El Paso and other hard-hit

areas to allow those districts to keep instruction exclusively virtual, the state has full discretion over who receives one. There is no guarantee one will be given to districts requesting them.

Families and employees need to know when to expect campuses to remain open for face-to-face instruction and when to expect them to close. We expect clarity from our leaders about how they will make these important decisions. The current uncertainty adds an extra layer of stress to all of us during this anxious time. TEA and HISD must urgently work together to create a science-based contingency plan that defines when community or campus-based spread of COVID-19 warrants campus and district closures. Any agreed-upon metric must be widely communicated to families and employees. TEA must agree to fund the district if it follows the plan and HISD must implement it with fidelity. Only then will families know our students, their teachers and their administrators are valued and as safe as possible on-campus.

Golden is a public education advocate and HISD parent.

OPINION

COVID has abruptly yanked everyone into the future

By Debora Spar

What will we take with us into a post-COVID world?

Earlier seismic human shifts – the Agricultural Revolution or the Industrial Revolution – occurred over relatively long stretches of time. Now the pandemic is accelerating our already rapid digital revolution, crashing us into a future that is simultaneously as radical and mundane as our endless meetings on Zoom.

Within the earliest days of COVID-19, entire structures of work, education and leisure shifted from the physical world to its virtual incarnation. We moved millions of students onto digital learning platforms, and migrated in-person interactions, from religious services to fitness classes, online

Temporary changes are becoming permanent. Some grocery clerks, bus drivers, meatpackers, obstetricians may command a higher wage for their labors going forward. Delivery drones, driverless cars and automated checkout kiosks are being accelerated, and will automate more jobs away. And the entire infrastructure built to support a work-from-the-office environment will become gradually obsolete. Things like subways and coffee shops, which presume an active urban workforce, will decline. Highways could become less crowded. And rural areas – like tiny Winhall, Vt., whose summer 2020 population rose from 769 to more than 10,000 – likely will see an upsurge in home sales.

Another comes from how the pandemic

has rejiggered our intimate lives. Nine months ago, most could not have imagined talking to a therapist over Zoom, much less attending a Zoom funeral. Most of us didn't even know what Zoom was. Now it has become the central utility of our days, the channel through which we teach our children, date, and check in on our aging parents. It's hard to imagine that we will ever go back – not because Zoom is wonderful. But because we will get used to slipping in and out of conversations at the click of a mouse, to attending meetings around the world without having to wait at the airport or pay for a flight. We will build friendships with people whom we've never met in real life. Which means that our very notion of "real" will morph as well.

Before COVID-19, real life was lived in the physical world. Now it's all blurred. An entire class of kindergartners has school online. For them and those who follow, Zoom classes won't be "Zoom classes." They'll just be school. And the rest of us will gradually become more accustomed to seeing our screen lives as our real lives and to thinking of physical interaction as something different. Something rarer. Something saved for special occasions, like a trip across the ocean once was for our parents and grandparents.

We could well find that our daily lives have returned in some strange ways to patterns that existed long ago. Before the Industrial Revolution unleashed its radical tools, most people's lives unfolded along relatively narrow arcs. They lived close to their extended families and usually in the



Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

Stafford Municipal School District kindergarten teacher Johanna Chesser gives a virtual high-five Oct. 27.

same town as their parents and grandparents. They produced their own food, made their own clothes and had few ways of demarcating "work" from "home." Indeed, before the Industrial Revolution created what would become the modern factory economy, everyone essentially worked from home – much as, under very different circumstances, millions of workers have learned to do today. Now we are living more like our ancestors than like our former selves, merging the boundaries between home and work, and between our personal and professional lives.

It is too soon, of course, to know the precise contours of COVID-19's long-term impact. What is increasingly evident, though, is that this disease will reshape us in ways that extend far beyond its deadly

toll. The biggest change is likely to stem from the nature of change itself. We have known for some time that technology is extending its reach across our lives. Social media, smart phones, nanobots, artificial intelligence – all have emerged in just the past 10 years, a tiny sliver of time. But until the pandemic came, individuals had some ability to pick and choose among the technologies they used. They could explore virtual realities or not; venture into an online classroom or stay firmly ensconced in the physical world. Now, COVID has abruptly yanked everyone into the future. We are all online now and likely to stay there for a very long time.

It's exhausting, this sudden shift. It's scary and isolating and exhilarating, all at the same time. As we tumble through this Alice in Wonderland experience, though, it's also useful to remember that technological change and disaster have long gone hand-in-hand, with outcomes that have generally, eventually, proven less than calamitous. As a species we are surprisingly adaptive, reconfiguring our norms and social structures to accord with our particular moment in time. We will be different after COVID-19 finally leaves. But we will get used to this new normal with amazing speed and then forget that it was just one little virus that brought our future into being.

Spar is a professor at Harvard Business School and the former president of Barnard College and Lincoln Center. She is the author of "Work Mate Marry Love." She wrote this for Zócalo Public Square.

WE ARE WIDE OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



HOUSTON

OPEN EVERY DAY 8am-7pm



GARDEN CENTERS™

CAMELLIAS
JAPONICA & SASANQUA
RED, PINK & WHITE

3 GAL **\$19⁹⁹** 7 GAL **\$39⁹⁹**

CYCLAMEN
RED, WHITE, PURPLE & PINK

4 1/2 INCH **\$3⁹⁹** 6" **\$6⁹⁹**

GERANIUMS
100'S TO CHOOSE

6 INCH **\$4⁹⁹**

FALL COLOR
CABBAGE, KALE, PANSIES, DIANTHUS, PETUNIAS, STOCK & MORE

ALL 6 1/2 INCH **\$3⁹⁹ OR 10/\$35**

FALL COLOR
SNAP DRAGONS, STOCK, PETUNIAS, ALLYSUM, PANSYS, & MORE!!

6 PAK **\$4⁹⁹** 9 PAK **\$6⁹⁹**

QUART COLOR
ALYSSUM, ASTERS, BEGONIAS, CABBAGE, KALE, CALENDULA, PANSIES, STOCK, DUSTY MILLER & MORE

\$1⁹⁹ OR 10/\$18

DEJA BLOOM AZALEAS
MULTI SEASONAL BLOOMS THAT SPARKLE YEAR AFTER YEAR

2 GAL **\$12⁹⁹**

CITRUS TREES
OWARTI, BROWN SELECT & MIHO SATSUMA, WASH & RED NAVAL ORANGE, HAMLIN ORANGE, MORO BLOOD ORANGE, PAGE, CLEMENTINE & PONKAN MANDARINS, SUNBURST, DANCY & ORLANDO TANGERINE, RED & WHITE PUMELO GRAPEFRUIT, IMPROVED MEYER LEMON, PERSIAN LIME, THORNTLESS KEY LIME & SWEET KUMQUAT

5 GAL **\$39⁹⁹** **FRESH CROP**

ENCORE AZALEAS
BLOOMS IN SPRING, SUMMER & FALL BETTER HEAT TOLERANCE

3 GAL **\$19⁹⁹**

MINI ROSES or ROSA-ROMA

4 INCH **\$2⁹⁹ OR 10/\$25**

BLUE POINT JUNIPERS

3 GAL **\$19⁹⁹** 7 GAL **\$69⁹⁹**

COMPACT HOLLY

3 GAL **\$19⁹⁹** 7 GAL **\$69⁹⁹**

GOLDEN ARBORVITAE

3 GAL **\$19⁹⁹**

SKY PENCIL HOLLY

3 GAL **\$16⁹⁹**

70% OFF

ON MOST TREES, SHRUBS, ROSES & MORE!

DOES NOT INCLUDE CITRUS TREES, CAMELIAS, ENCORES OR DEJA BLOOM AZALIAS

- ALL AFRICAN IRIS
- ALL AGAPANTHUS
- ALL APPLE TREES
- ALL AVOCADO TREES
- ALL BANANA TREES
- ALL BIG STUFF PLANTS
- ALL BLACKBERRIES
- ALL BLUEBERRIES
- ALL BOTTLE BRUSH
- ALL BOXED PLANTS
- ALL BULBINE

- ALL CACTUS
- ALL CANNAS
- ALL CRAPE MYRTLES
- ALL COPPER PLANTS
- ALL DAYLILIES
- ALL FIG TREES
- ALL FLOWERING SHRUBS
- ALL GARDENIAS
- ALL GOLDEN BAMBOO
- ALL GRAPES
- ALL HOSTAS

- ALL HYDRANGEAS
- ALL ITALIAN CYPRESS
- ALL JAPANESE LOQUATS
- ALL KNOCKOUT ROSES
- ALL MANDEVILLA
- ALL MANGO TREES
- ALL MOUNTAIN LAUREL
- ALL NECTARINE TREES
- ALL OLEANDERS
- ALL ORCHIDS
- ALL ORNAMENTAL TREES

- ALL PALM TREES
- ALL PAPAYAS
- ALL PATIO TREES
- ALL PEACH TREES
- ALL PEAR TREES
- ALL PECAN TREES
- ALL PLUM TREES
- ALL POMEGRANATES
- ALL QUEEN PALMS
- ALL ROSES
- ALL SAGO PALMS

- ALL SHADE TREES
- ALL SIVERADO SAGE
- ALL SHRUBS
- ALL SOCIETY GARLIC
- ALL SOUTHERN MAGNOLIAS
- ALL SPIRALS
- ALL STAR JASMINE
- ALL TREES
- ALL TOPIARIES
- ALL VITEX
- ALL WISTERIA
- AND MORE!!

TOP SHELF SOILS
YOUR CHOICE

- POTTING SOIL*
- GARDEN SOIL*
- LANDSCAPING MIX
- COMPOST

*ENHANCED WITH MEDINA GROWIN GREEN!

3/\$18 **\$6⁹⁹**

TEXAS THREE STEP BY NITRO PHOS

BARRICADE PRE-EMERGENCE LAWN WEED CONTROL
SELECTIVE PRE-EMERGENCE CONTROL OF GRASS & BROADLEAF WEEDS IN LAWNS

CVRS 5,000 SQ FT **\$16⁹⁹** **APPLY TODAY!** by NITRO PHOS

FALL SPECIAL LAWN FERTILIZER
8-12-16

- WINTER HARDINESS
- DISEASE RESISTANCE
- PROMOTES VIGOROUS GROWTH NEXT SPRING

COVERS UP TO 6,000 SQ FT by NITRO PHOS **\$24⁹⁹**

EAGLE TURF LAWN FUNGICIDE
SYSTEMIC PROTECTION & CURATIVE FUNGICIDE PROMOTES HEALTHY TURF & OPTIMUM DISEASE CONTROL

by NITRO PHOS **\$19⁹⁹**

LAWN WEED CONTROL WEED BEATER COMPLETE
KILLS & PREVENTS BROADLEAF & GRASSY WEEDS KILLS THE TOUGHEST WEEDS! APPLY TODAY!

CVRS 5,000 SQ FT by BONIDE **\$17⁹⁹**

BLACK VELVET MULCH
by LANDSCAPERS PRIDE 100% ORGANIC FOR USE IN FLOWER BEDS

3/\$20 **\$7⁹⁹** EACH

LAWN FUNGUS USE F-STOP
A SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDE TO PREVENT & CURE FUNGUS IN YOUR LAWN TAKE ALL PATCH, BROWN PATCH & MORE LAWN DISEASES APPLY TODAY & GET CONTROL

HOSE END or GRANULES **\$17⁹⁹**

FEED YOUR FALL COLOR PREMIUM BEDDING PLANT FOOD
USE ON CELOSIA, MARIGOLDS, PETUNIAS, SNAP DRAGONS, BEGONIAS, CYCLAMEN, PANSIES, ASTERS, & MORE

4# BAG by FERTILOME **\$6⁹⁹**

PREMIUM POTTING SOIL
ALL PURPOSE POTTING MIX FOR INDOORS & OUT FORTIFIED WITH PREMIUM FERTILIZERS

by EASY GRO **\$7⁹⁹**

FALL FEEDING PREMIUM WINTERIZER
18-6-12 ESTABLISHES A STRONG ROOT SYSTEM & PROMOTES AN EARLIER, DARKER, GREENER LAWN IN SPRING

by EASY GRO CVRS 7,200 SQ FT **\$19⁹⁹**

ALL SALES FINAL • NO EXCHANGES • NO REFUNDS

BUSINESS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020 • SECTION B

• **DOW:** 28,390.18, up 542.52 (1.95%) | • **S&P:** 3,510.45, up 67.01 (1.95%) | • **OIL:** \$38.54, down \$0.61 (-1.56%) | • **NATURAL GAS:** \$2.93, down \$0.116 (-3.81%)

Power companies' profits plunge

CenterPoint's fell by more than half in quarter; NRG's dipped by a third

L.M. Sixel
STAFF WRITER

Moderate summer weather, low power prices and reduced demand for electricity amid a pandemic hammered the bottom lines of Houston power companies during the third quarter. CenterPoint Energy, the regulated utility that delivers electricity and natural gas to the Houston area, said Thursday that profits fell by more than half in the third

quarter, citing lower industrial and commercial electricity demand during the coronavirus pandemic and a write-off from an investment in a natural gas pipeline and storage company. Also Thursday, NRG Energy, one of the state's biggest generators and sellers of electricity, said its third quarter profit fell by one-third, citing lower power prices and less demand. NRG, which is based in Houston and Princeton, N.J., and

whose brands include Green Mountain Energy, Reliant Energy and Cirro Energy, said it made \$249 million in the third quarter, compared with \$372 million during the same period in 2019. Revenue in the third quarter declined 6.2 percent, to \$2.8 billion from nearly \$3 billion one year earlier. CenterPoint, meanwhile, said it made \$121 million in the third quarter, compared with \$270 million in the same period in 2019. Revenue declined by 2.2 percent to \$1.6 billion from nearly \$1.7 billion during the same three-month period a year earlier.

CenterPoint's quarterly results include impairment charges of \$92 million on the write-down of assets at Enable Midstream Partners, an Oklahoma pipeline and storage company in which CenterPoint owns nearly 54 percent. A CenterPoint board committee has been meeting to determine the company's future strategy and will unveil its plans next month, according to CenterPoint. Part of that effort is to boost the annual rate base by 10 percent, according to the company. Declining revenue is an issue at utilities nationwide as electricity demand has fallen during the

pandemic's resurgence, according to a new study. Electricity demand fell by an average of 7 percent in September, compared with the same month in each of the previous four years, according to Boston consulting firm Brattle Group. The biggest reductions are on grids supplying power to states in the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and South, where the number of coronavirus cases has increased since midsummer. Slower sales have reduced the revenue of electric utility companies, which have cut costs to

Power continues on B6



Mark Mulligan / Staff file photo

Roughly 16,000 people who rely on the UTMB system have coverage from Aetna.

Deal out of reach, UTMB will end Aetna contract

By Nick Powell
STAFF WRITER

GALVESTON — The University of Texas Medical Branch will terminate its contract with Aetna effective next spring, with the two sides unable to come to a contract agreement after four years of negotiating, according to the system's interim president, Ben Raimer. Raimer announced the end of the medical branch's relationship with Aetna during a conference call Thursday, saying the health insurance provider no longer reimbursed the system at competitive rates. "We've had the same contract (with Aetna) for the last 10 years," Raimer said. "You know that your medications, the things that you're being treated with, have increased in cost. And yet, we have not been able to have the cooperation of Aetna to cover those things that have gone up. So the best thing that we can do at this point is just say, 'We enjoyed working with you the last 10 years. We need to move on and work with people who will work with us.'" Aetna, one of the nation's leading health insurance providers, insures roughly 39 million people, with a network of about 1.2 million health care providers and more than 5,700 hospitals. In a statement, a company spokesperson indicated the insurer was caught off guard by UTMB's announcement. "We are surprised to learn today via UTMB's press release—after many months of silence from UTMB—that UTMB has decided to terminate its commercial contract with us. Aetna maintains open communication with UTMB

UTMB continues on B6

HOUSES



Melissa Phillip / Staff file photo

This Houston home was for sale in July. Even with mortgage rates near all-time lows, rising home prices are putting more pressure on buyers to come up with bigger down payments — a trend that stretches the limits of affordability for many.

As the prices for homes climb, bigger down payments needed

Record low mortgage rates a sign of economic trouble

By R.A. Schuetz
STAFF WRITER

Mortgage rates fell to a record low for the 12th time this year, according to government-sponsored mortgage-finance company Freddie Mac, as the nail-biting election and signs of a COVID resurgence cast the future into doubt. The average rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 2.78 percent last week, down from 2.81 percent the week before and 3.69 percent a year ago. The average rate for a 15-year fixed-rate mortgage was 2.32 percent. While low rates are good for homeowners, they're a sign of a troubled economy. When investors become nervous, they seek safer investments and pour money into government bonds and mortgage debt — much of it backed by

Rates continues on B6



Stefan Zaklin / Getty Images

The average for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 2.78 percent last week, while the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage was 2.32 percent.

In second quarter, median expenditure was \$13,955

By Alex Veiga
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Even with mortgage rates hovering near all-time lows, rising home prices are putting more pressure on buyers to come up with a bigger down payment. In the April-June quarter, the median down payment on a single-family U.S. home was \$13,955, a 15.3 percent increase from a year earlier, according to industry tracker Attom Data Solutions. In the first three months of 2020, it vaulted 29 percent from the same period in 2019. The trend follows a steady climb in U.S. home prices this year. As of August, they were up 5.2 percent from a year earlier. The rise in home prices is stretching the limits of affordability for many Americans already struggling to save for a down payment.

Payments continues on B6

Time to maximize points on travel-branded credit cards

By L.M. Sixel
STAFF WRITER

I have four credit cards in my wallet, but most of the time I use just one general purpose card. It's easy and the points I earn are transferable to about a dozen airline and hotel partners. I save the hotel and airline cards for when I travel to rack up lots of incentive points when I use their brands. But lately I've forced myself to rethink my strategy. That's because as the coronavirus pan-



demic spreads, issuers of travel-branded credit cards including United Airlines, Marriott and Southwest Airlines are making it more attractive to use their cards by seriously increasing the points consumers can earn for everyday spending on groceries, car hire services and even utilities. Some are offering 5 points for every \$1 in basic spending categories instead of the typical point or two. Credit card issuers are hoping

How to continues on B6



Associated Press file photo

Issuers of airline- and hotel-branded credit cards are making it more attractive to use their cards by increasing the points consumers can earn for everyday spending.

BUSINESS

BRIEFS

Saudi Arabia trims prices for Asia, U.S.

Saudi Arabia cut most oil pricing for its customers in Asia and the U.S. as a resurgence in the coronavirus clouds the outlook for energy markets.

State producer Saudi Aramco decreased December pricing for shipments of Arab light crude to Asia, its largest regional market, by 10 cents a barrel to a 50-cent discount to the benchmark.

Oil dropped around 10 percent last week as European nations including Germany and France announced new lockdowns and daily virus cases hit a record in the U.S. While crude has since recovered most of those losses, the market continues to face headwinds, OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, led by Saudi Arabia, agreed with Russia and other producers in April to pump less oil to prop up the market.

The supply cuts by the alliance, known as OPEC+, caused oil prices to rally, but benchmark Brent crude is still down 38 percent this year at \$41 a barrel.

Brent will probably continue ranging between \$38 and \$43 a barrel, according to Ibrahim Al-Buainain, head of Aramco's trading unit. That's far below



Associated Press file photo

Officials with Saudi Aramco and the Saudi Arabian stock market are shown in Riyadh last December.

what most members of the cartel, including Saudi Arabia, need to balance their budgets.

Aramco cut prices for all U.S. grades by 20 cents and raised them by as much as \$1 for the northwest Europe and Mediterranean regions. The company shipped almost two-thirds of its oil exports last month to Asia or the U.S., tanker tracking data compiled by Bloomberg show.

OPEC+ is considering keeping production at current levels into 2021 instead of easing the supply cuts at the start of January, as was originally planned. With Europe's lockdowns and refinery profits dwindling, even Aramco's Al-Buainain doubts the market needs more crude.

The producers' group will meet Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 to review its output policy.

Saudi Arabia's pricing deci-

sion usually sets the tone for other Middle Eastern suppliers, including Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, the second- and third-largest producers in OPEC.

ANTITRUST

Feds sue to stop Visa's deal for Plaid

The Justice Department sued to block Visa's \$5.3 billion acquisition of Plaid over concerns that the deal would harm competition in the global payments market.

The department filed an antitrust complaint in federal court in San Francisco on Thursday.

The deal would give Visa control over an important data provider to apps such as PayPal Holdings's Venmo, which allows consumers to send money to friends and merchants without

using Visa's network.

Regulators have long had antitrust concerns about the market power Visa and its rival Mastercard wield over global payments systems.

With Plaid, Visa would gain access to 200 million consumer bank accounts and 2,600 financial technology apps.

Those connections would help the company further its push into new areas such as real-time payments and digital wallets.

GAS PRICES Costs for Texans has dropped 5 cents

The statewide gas price average in Texas is \$1.79 for a gallon of regular unleaded fuel, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. That price is 5 cents less than on this day last week and 46 cents less when compared to this day last year.

Of the major metropolitan areas surveyed in Texas, drivers in Odessa are paying the most on average, at \$2.02, while drivers in Sherman-Denison in North Texas are paying the least, at \$1.62 per gallon.

The national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded is \$2.12, which is 49 cents less than this time last year.

The Texas statewide average dropped to its lowest level since early June on Thursday. Furthermore, drivers in the Lone Star State have been paying below \$2 a gallon for regular unleaded on average for 237 days, according to historical data

from gasprices.aaa.com. COVID-19 concerns continue to keep gasoline demand levels well below last year, which has been driving pump prices lower from this time last year.

Drivers in Texas are paying some of the cheapest prices at the pump, ranking second lowest in the country, according to gasprices.aaa.com.

EARNINGS Half-year profit for Nintendo soars

Nintendo, the Japanese company behind Super Mario and Pokemon video games, reported Thursday that its fiscal first half profit more than tripled as people passed time while stuck at home during the pandemic playing games.

Kyoto-based Nintendo Co.'s profit for the six months through September soared to 213 billion yen, or \$2 billion, up from 62 billion yen a year ago. Six-month sales soared to 769 billion yen from 444 billion yen.

Nintendo said more than 5 million units of "Super Mario 3D All-Stars" game software for the Nintendo Switch were sold during the period and that nearly 3 million units of "Paper Mario: The Origami King" were sold. Nintendo's online downloads and mobile sales also did well.

Although rising COVID-19 cases have hurt large chunks of the global economy, including Japan's, some sectors, such as online retailing and at-home entertainment, are booming.

From staff and wire reports

Texas jobless, COVID cases growing

By Rebecca Carballo
STAFF WRITER

First-time claims for unemployment rose modestly in Texas last week while dropping slightly nationally.

Just over 36,000 workers filed new claims last week, up about 1,000 from the previous week. U.S. claims slipped to 751,000, down 7,000 from the previous week.

Unemployment claims have fallen substantially since record highs in late March and early April, when initial claims in the state surpassed 300,000 per week and approached 7 million nationally. Economists, however, say the recovery has slowed and fear the resurgence of COVID-19 could lead to another economic contraction.

"Consumers have been reminded about reasons for caution on the question of going out in public," said Mark Hamrick, senior economic analyst for Bankrate, a personal finance site.

Health officials last week warned Houstonians about a possible third wave across the region. Statewide, COVID-19 cases rose by 1 percent to 967,339 as of Thursday afternoon.

The United States recorded more than 100,000 new coronavirus infections in a single day for the first time on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, it remains uncertain when Congress might pass another stimulus bill and how much it might spend to provide relief to unemployed workers and struggling businesses. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Wednesday that an economic stimulus bill will be the focus when the Senate resumes work next week. He estimated it would be enacted before the end of the year.

becca.carballo@chron.com

\$26B settlement offer in opioid suits gains support

By Jan Hoffman
NEW YORK TIMES

The three major drug distributors and a large drug manufacturer are closing in on a \$26 billion deal with state and local governments that would end thousands of lawsuits over the companies' role in the opioid epidemic, according to people close to the negotiations and new company filings.

The deal is \$4 billion more than an offer made a year ago, which was rejected by most states and municipalities. A major difference in the latest offer is \$2 billion earmarked for private lawyers who represent cities, counties and some states.

If the deal is finalized, four of the most prominent defendants in the litigation — McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen and Johnson & Johnson — would no longer be at risk from future opioid lawsuits by these governments. Other drug manufacturers and the national pharmacy chains are still facing thousands of such cases.

Most of the money from the settlement deal is intended to help pay for treatment and prevention programs in communities ravaged by addiction and overdoses. From 1999 through 2018, 232,000 Americans died from overdoses of prescription opioids, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Litigation over the drug indus-



Dreamstime / Tribune News Service

From 1999 through 2018, 232,000 Americans died from overdoses of prescription opioids.

try's responsibility has been bitterly fought, resulting in a handful of settlements and the declaration of bankruptcy by some drug manufacturers. The latest deal is being brokered under the shadow of two major trials tentatively scheduled for January, which the companies are hoping to avoid. Unlike last year's smaller settlement offer, which was rejected by many states but especially by lawyers negotiating for thousands of counties, cities and tribes, this offer is being widely lauded.

Over nearly two years of talks, the most stubborn sticking points, aside from a bottom-line dollar figure, were about how to allocate

funds to plaintiffs as well as to lawyers.

Under the deal, each state would determine how it would distribute settlement money. The amount each state would receive is expected to be determined by four factors: state population, overdose deaths, diagnoses of substance use disorders and volume of pills sold.

Reaching agreement on compensating the lawyers has also been a knotty problem. The cities and counties have relied on hundreds of private lawyers who have worked on the litigation for years based on contingency fees and have already fronted hundreds of millions of dollars in expenses.

Shell shutting down Louisiana refinery

By James Osborne
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — The European oil company Royal Dutch Shell is shutting down its Convent refinery in Louisiana as part of its strategy to reduce carbon emissions.

The company said Thursday it would begin shutting down the facility, which employs close to 700

workers outside Baton Rouge, in mid-November.

"The decision is part of the company's global strategy to invest in a core set of uniquely integrated manufacturing sites that are also strategically positioned for the transition to a low-carbon future," the company said in a statement.

Shell announced this summer it

was trying to sell the facility but has failed to find a buyer.

Refineries have come under increasing financial pressure worldwide, as fuel demand has dropped during the coronavirus pandemic.

Shell said it has been working to consolidate its refining and chemical operations to six sites worldwide, including Deer Park in Texas and Norco in Louisiana.

Indicating it's still wary, Fed holds rates steady

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve officials made only minor adjustments to their policy statement Thursday, leaving rates unchanged and pledging to act as needed to protect the economy and sustain its recovery from the depths of the pandemic-spurred recession.

"Economic activity and employment have continued to recover but remain well below their levels at the beginning of the year," policymakers said in their post-meeting statement.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, speaking at a news conference after the meeting, said the econom-

ic outlook is "extraordinarily uncertain" and called the rise in new coronavirus cases in both the United States and overseas "particularly concerning."

"The pace of improvement has moderated," Powell said, adding that while the housing market has recovered and spending on goods has been strong, "spending on services remains low," in large part because people can't gather closely.

The Fed slashed interest rates to nearly zero in March and has been buying huge quantities of government-backed bonds in an attempt to keep markets functioning smoothly and to stimulate demand.

Low rates do seem to be helping to fuel a recovery.

Housing has been a bright spot in the pandemic-damaged economy, for instance, as families refinanced to take advantage of mortgage savings and as buyers scramble to purchase new and existing houses.

However, government spending programs also have been an important driver of the rebound so far, keeping money flowing to businesses and households even as companies temporarily shut their doors and millions of people lost their jobs.

Now, the economy is teetering on an uncertain precipice as U.S. coronavirus cases rise and sup-

port programs run dry. The protracted outcomes of the presidential and congressional elections have made it hard to guess whether and when the government will renew forgivable small business loans, expanded unemployment insurance and other measures that have helped to keep businesses and families afloat.

The uncertainty comes while the economy has 11 million fewer jobs relative to February, based on official government figures that probably understate the full extent of employment loss.

A jobs report today is expected to show employers added about 600,000 nonfarm workers in October.

Apple faces a shortage of chips for iPhones and more

By Debby Wu
and Giles Turner
BLOOMBERG

Apple Inc. is grappling with a shortage of vital chips that manage power consumption in iPhones and other devices, people with knowledge of the matter said, complicating its ability to meet holiday demand for the latest version of its marquee gadget.

It's unclear to what extent the bottleneck may limit iPhone availability during its crucial launch quarter, typically Apple's busiest. Despite the shortfall, suppliers are likely to prioritize Apple and its power-hungry iPhone 12 over other customers lining up for scarce parts, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters.

Increasing demand for silicon across a range of products and supply chain disruptions from COVID-19 are the main causes of the shortage, according to the people. Main Apple chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. said last month that 5G smartphones require 30 percent to 40 percent more chip content versus 4G. That and uncertainty over the course of the pandemic is spurring customers to store up components for fear of running out, especially after major smartphone maker Huawei Technologies Co. had stocked up massively ahead of a September deadline for U.S. sanctions.

The stockpiling compounds lingering issues across a global electronics industry still recovering from rolling lockdowns that snarled transportation routes and cut off workers from factories earlier this year. Disruptions are expected to persist over the next two quarters, the people said.

Power management is more important in the iPhone 12 than for its predecessors, given additional camera features and 5G capabilities, increasing Apple's need for these components. It recently launched four 5G models, and analysts expect strong consumer demand for the devices. During a recent conference call with analysts, Apple CEO Tim Cook warned about supply constraints for the iPhone 12, Mac, iPad and some Apple Watch models — although he didn't specifically mention power management chips.

Supply issues for the iPhone are "not a surprise" because Apple has just begun to ramp up production, the CEO said. "It's hard to predict" how long the supply constraints will last, he added. An Apple spokesman declined to comment.

MARKET SUMMARY

ENERGY FUTURES

Prices in U.S. dollars per unit for energy commodities for the contract closest to delivery:

Name	C Date	Open	High	Low	Settle	Chg	Unit
Lt Sw Crude	Dec 20	39.17	39.35	38.27	38.79	-0.36	barrel
Natural gas	Dec 20	3.06	3.11	2.93	2.94	-0.10	MMBtu
Gas blend	Dec 20	1.11	1.12	1.09	1.12	0.01	gal
Heating oil	Dec 20	1.17	1.17	1.15	1.17	0.00	gal
Ethanol	Dec 20	1.44	1.44	1.40	1.40	0.05	gal

BLOOMBERG/CHRONICLE ENERGY INDEX

Top and bottom performers among Houston-based and other major energy companies:

Tick	Name	Last Price	% Chg	Volume	Tick	Name	Last Price	% Chg	Volume
GEL	Genesis Energy LP	4.56	14.0	1,496,925	CDVIQ	Cal Dive International	0.00	-28.6	33,017
AE	Adams Resources & Energy	21.12	11.2	8,909	WTI	W&T Offshore Inc	1.41	-7.2	5,049,993
OXY	Occidental Petroleum Corp	10.47	6.7	4,421,837	IO	ION Geophysical Corp	1.50	-5.7	212,027
DOFSQ	Diamond Offshore Drilling	0.17	6.2	260,077	MUR	Murphy Oil Corp	7.28	-5.3	804,603
FTK	Flotek Industries Inc	2.61	6.1	190,154	NEBLQ	Noble Corp plc	0.03	-3.0	1,117,063
CNP	CenterPoint Energy Inc	22.67	5.1	6,292,686	SLB	Schlumberger NV	15.52	-2.8	3,604,597
MCF	Contango Oil & Gas Co	1.32	3.1	983,815	EPM	Evolution Petroleum Corp	2.14	-2.3	114,032
PAA	PlainsAllAmericanPipeline	6.90	3.1	3,992,009	BP	BP PLC	15.83	-1.9	14,188,706
RIG	Transocean Ltd	1.00	3.0	43,773,762	EOG	EOG Resources Inc	35.60	-1.2	1,729,056
NOV	National Oilwell Varco	9.30	2.8	5,706,603	HAL	Halliburton Co	12.57	-1.1	11,905,009

BLOOMBERG COMMODITY PRICE OUTLOOK

The median price of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg:

	2020 Forecast	2021 Forecast	2022 Forecast
Crude oil	38.26	46.00	49.50
Natural Gas	2.07	2.64	2.70

ENERGY PRICES

Cash price in U.S. dollars paid at delivery for various commodities:

Name	Last Price	Pvs Day	Unit
Unleaded Gasoline - NY	1.15	1.14	gallon
North Sea Brent	39.91	40.33	barrel
W. Texas-Int. - Cushing	38.79	39.15	barrel
Nat Gas - Henry Hub	2.67	2.59	MMBtu

ETFs - \$1,000 INVESTED IN EACH

Performance of various index-based investment products:

ENERGY				
Ticker	Name	\$1K return 1mo	\$1K return 3mo	\$1K return 1yr
XLE	Energy Select Se	979	803	529
XES	SPDR Oil & Gas E	1,013	779	412
USO	US Oil Fund	972	898	285

METALS				
Ticker	Name	\$1K return 1mo	\$1K return 3mo	\$1K return 1yr
IAU	iShares Gold T	1,019	955	1,309
SLV	iShares Silver T	1,044	943	1,436

SOFT/LIVESTOCK/GRAIN				
Ticker	Name	\$1K return 1mo	\$1K return 3mo	\$1K return 1yr
JO	DJ-UBS Coffee	984	859	915
CORN	Teucrium Corn	1,041	1,180	918
CANE	Teucrium Sugar	1,008	1,033	923
CATL	ETFS Live Cattle	962	957	791
COW	iPath DJ-UBS Liv	1,001	1,080	721

*Trades on London Stock Exchange

Clean-energy investors thrown for a loop

BLOOMBERG

Investors riding the prospects of Joe Biden's \$2 trillion clean energy plan have been thrown for a loop as a drawn-out vote count illustrates how much influence the outcome of the U.S. election will have on the world's shift away from reliance on fossil fuels.

The S&P Global Clean Energy Index, made up of 30 companies from around the world, surged toward a record Thursday, bouncing back from losses a day earlier, as Biden's path to victory in the presidential race appeared clearer and Republicans' ability to

maintain control of the Senate looked less certain.

Alternative energy stocks surged in recent months as investors weighed the prospect of Democrats controlling the White House and Congress, which would allow them to aggressively push toward renewables and away from fossil fuels. Investors became wary ahead of Election Day as shares had outperformed and analysts began downgrading some recommendations.

Thursday's rebound came as investors reassessed the industry's prospects under whatever power dynamic ultimately takes shape in

Washington. RBC strategist Helima Croft pointed out that a Biden administration would still have the power to push clean energy use even with a divided Congress. "There remains significant scope to use executive action and federal regulation that can advance goals for solar panels, wind turbines, EV charging stations, emissions and the like," Croft wrote in a research note.

JinkoSolar Holding Co. and SunPower Corp. were among those rebounding from Wednesday's drop, both posting double-digit gains. Meanwhile, Chinese electric vehicle maker Nio Inc. rallied

to a record in U.S. trading, pushing its market value past that of General Motors Co.

"All hope is not lost even with a Republican Senate," said Michael Weinstein, an analyst at Credit Suisse Group AG.

Before the election, investors had priced in a high likelihood of an extension to solar's investment tax credit, and even a split Congress doesn't completely eliminate that possibility, Weinstein said.

The S&P clean energy index climbed 6.6 percent Thursday, the most since March, to close within 1 percent of its Oct. 9 record high.

It's up 79 percent this year.

Many clean energy companies are well positioned to achieve rapid growth under the global transition away from fossil fuels, Morgan Stanley analysts told clients in a note Wednesday. Even so, the bank chose to downgrade First Solar Inc. to sell-equivalent, saying shares are likely to move lower regardless of the election outcome after the stock rallied more than 50 percent this year.

Electric vehicle companies, seen as big gainers even under a Biden win with a split Congress, continued their share gains from Wednesday.

S&P 500 MOVERS

Top and bottom performers based on one-day percentage change in stock price:

DAILY GAINERS

Tick	Name	Last Price	% Chg	1-month % Chg
ALB	Albemarle Corp	105.50	12.9	11.3
QCOM	QUALCOMM Inc	145.41	12.7	20.7
QRVO	Qorvo Inc	146.69	9.7	8.4
PRGO	Perrigo Co PLC	45.21	9.5	-0.2
PH	Parker-Hannifin	237.98	9.2	11.7
CFG	Citizens Fin Group	28.91	8.2	5.2
AMAT	Applied Materials	69.95	7.8	15.4
CAH	Cardinal Health	53.06	7.3	12.5
SWKS	Skyworks Solutions	149.12	6.9	-1.6
OXY	Occidental Petro	10.47	6.7	-0.4

BLOOMBERG HOUSTON CHRONICLE 150

The Bloomberg Houston 150 includes major companies based in Houston and significant employers in the area.

Name	Ticker	Last Price	Chg Day	% Chg YTD	52W Low	52W High	Div Yld	Name	Ticker	Last Price	Chg Day	% Chg YTD	52W Low	52W High	Div Yld
Academy Sports & Outdoors	ASO	16.51	0.79	-	12.05	16.60	-	LyndallBSll	LYB	74.21	4.65	-21.5	33.71	98.91	5.66
Admiral Res & Energy	AE	21.12	2.12	-44.5	15.16	39.70	4.55	Macy's Inc	M	6.44	0.18	-62.1	4.38	18.57	-
Align	ABTX	28.27	0.93	-24.8	20.88	38.95	1.41	MainStCap	MAIN	29.35	0.59	-31.9	14.11	45.10	8.38
Amazon.com	AMZN	3322.00	80.84	79.8	1626.03	3552.25	-	Marathon Oil	MRO	4.29	0.02	-68.4	3.02	14.07	2.80
AmerNatGrp	ANAT	72.25	1.48	-38.6	63.93	122.35	4.54	MgnlOil & Gas	MGY	4.13	-0.01	-67.2	3.23	13.29	-
Apache	APA	8.97	-0.02	-64.9	3.80	33.77	1.11	MRC Global	MRC	4.69	0.17	-65.6	3.31	15.47	-
Archrock	AROC	6.49	0.09	-35.4	2.09	10.42	8.94	NatOilWllVlr	NOV	9.30	0.25	-62.9	7.70	25.81	-
AT&T Inc	T	27.51	0.47	-29.6	26.08	39.70	7.56	NblMdstPrtr	NBLX	8.11	-0.26	-69.5	1.81	28.88	9.25
BHP Group	BHP	50.06	1.21	-8.5	29.78	58.35	4.39	Nbrs Indst	NBR	33.36	-0.24	-76.8	9.79	167.50	-
Bk of Amer	BAC	24.61	0.93	-30.1	17.95	35.72	2.93	NewparkRes	NR	0.81	0.00	-87.1	0.65	6.98	-
BkrHighsCo	BKR	15.73	0.07	-38.6	9.12	25.99	4.58	Noble plc	NEBLQ	0.03	0.00	-97.9	0.02	1.58	-
BlckStrMin	BSM	6.63	0.37	-47.9	4.04	13.54	9.05	NOW Inc	DNOW	4.76	0.12	-57.7	4.03	12.75	-
BncBltVzcy	BBVA	3.01	0.17	-46.1	2.49	5.80	-	NRG Energy	NRG	32.12	-0.59	-19.2	19.54	41.78	3.74
BncmtrkElc	BHE	22.13	1.15	-35.6	14.06	37.36	2.89	NtrlResPrtr	NRP	13.48	0.82	-33.0	8.50	26.81	13.35
Boeing Co	BA	157.09	5.46	-51.8	89.00	375.60	-	NxTrOfltdS	NEX	1.99	0.05	-70.3	1.00	7.14	-
BP PLC	BP	15.83	-0.30	-58.1	14.74	40.08	7.96	OasisPetro	OASPO	0.11	0.00	-96.6	0.07	3.65	-
Bristow Grp	VTOL	23.54	2.47	-22.8	10.50	35.91	-	OccdntlPtro	OXY	10.47	0.66	-74.6	8.52	47.58	0.38
Cactus Inc	WHDO	18.96	1.21	-44.8	8.16	35.28	1.90	Ocnrg Int	OII	4.40	0.04	-70.5	2.01	16.00	-
CadenceBcp	CADE	11.87	0.65	-34.5	4.63	18.24	2.53	OilSttsInt	OIS	2.82	-0.02	-82.7	1.52	17.81	-
Cardtroncs	CATM	19.40	0.90	-56.6	15.71	47.41	-	ParPacific	PARR	8.36	0.37	-64.0	5.72	25.69	-
CbtOil & G	COG	16.45	0.44	-5.5	13.06	22.67	2.43	Penn VA	PVAC	6.95	-0.03	-77.1	0.99	32.30	-
CenterPtEn	CNP	22.67	1.11	-16.9	11.58	29.12	2.65	Phillips66	PSX	48.19	0.27	-56.7	40.04	119.92	7.47
ChampionX	CHX	8.92	-0.01	-73.6	2.89	34.80	-	Philps66Pr	PSXP	23.72	1.00	-61.5	19.00	65.23	14.76
Chevron	CVX	72.14	0.37	-40.1	51.60	122.94	7.15	Plains GP	PAGP	7.08	0.19	-59.1	2.83	18.28	10.17
ChnrEnPrtn	CQP	37.39	0.78	-6.1	17.75	44.23	6.97	PlnsAllAm	PAA	6.90	0.21	-62.5	3.00	19.47	10.43
ClinPrCo	CPE	5.64	0.04	-88.3	3.80	49.80	-	PROS Inc	PRO	30.78	1.29	-48.6	19.73	68.81	-
Cmdn PropTr	CPT	97.46	0.08	-8.1	62.48	120.73	3.41	PrsprtyBnc	PB	57.05	2.05	-20.6	42.02	75.22	3.44
CmfrtSysUS	FIX	47.68	1.36	-4.4	27.54	58.14	0.92	Pttrsn-UTI	PTEN	2.90	0.03	-72.4	1.61	10.95	2.76
CntngOil & C	MCF	1.32	0.04	-64.0	0.84	4.79	-	Pwll Indst	POWL	25.24	1.15	-48.5	15.62	50.81	4.12
Comcast	CMCSA	44.35	0.65	-1.4	31.71	67.74	2.07	QnxBldngPr	NX	19.50	0.52	-14.2	7.90	20.42	1.64
ConcPhllps	COP	30.12	-0.26	-53.7	20.84	67.13	5.71	QuantaSvcs	PWR	64.49	1.03	-58.4	23.77	68.27	0.31
Conn's Inc	CONN	9.92	0.23	-19.9	2.83	24.82	-	RylDtchShl	RDS/A	26.84	-0.06	-54.5	21.26	61.17	4.96
CrstwdEqyP	CEQP	14.08	-0.31	-54.3	2.65	36.72	17.76	SchlmbgrN	SLB	15.52	-0.45	-61.4	11.87	41.14	3.22
CrownCstlln	CCI	162.92	0.79	14.6	114.18	180.00	3.27	ShlMidstPr	SHLX	8.60	-0.02	-57.4	5.70	22.70	21.40
CVR Energy	CVI	10.95	0.30	-72.9	9.81	47.99	-	SltEnSvcs	WTRT	3.27	0.18	-64.8	2.22	9.68	-
CVS Health	CVS	61.41	1.04	-17.3	52.04	77.03	3.26	SirsOffld	SOI	5.85	-0.11	-58.2	4.50	14.75	7.18
Devon En	DVN	10.05	0.24	-60.5	4.60	26.42	4.38	SnnvEnInt	NOVA	31.93	3.21	186.1	6.12	33.07	-
DmndOffshd	DOFSQ	0.17	0.01	-97.6	0.10	7.84	-	Spark En	SPKE	9.35	0.01	1.3	5.25	11.47	7.75
DPntdeNmrs	DD	60.19	2.03	-6.2	28.33	73.49	1.99	SprEnSvcs	SPNX	0.27	0.00	-94.6	0.25	6.07	-
DR Horton	DHI	72.91	-1.84	38.2	25.51	81.21	0.96	SprtoFTXBn	STXB	13.66	1.04	-40.6	8.96	23.48	2.05
Dril-Quip	DRQ	24.63	-0.14	-47.5	22.25	48.39	-	StrhwstnEn	SWN	2.62	0.07	8.3	1.06	3.90	-
DXPEntpr	DXPE	17.30	1.06	-56.5	10.44	43.94	-	StringCnst	STRL	13.95	0.25	-0.9	6.72	17.82	-
EntprPro	EPD	17.09	0.46	-39.3	10.27	29.22	10.42	StwrtInfoS	STC	44.15	-0.53	8.2	20.26	49.48	2.72
EOG Res	EOG	35.60	-0.44	-57.5	27.00	89.54	4.22	Sunoco LP	SUN	25.99	-0.39	-15.1	10.46	33.00	12.70
Exterran	EXTN	3.84	-0.26	-51.0	3.24	14.89	-	Svc Int/U	SCI	49.84	0.96	8.3	33.93	52.89	1.52
ExxonMobil	XOM	33.17	-0.06	-52.5	30.11	73.12	10.49	SWArlnsCo	LUV	41.05	2.12	-24.0	22.47	58.83	-
Ftk Indst	FTK	2.61	0.15	30.5	0.66	3.09	-	Sysco Corp	SYO	60.83	0.09	-28.9	26.00	85.98	2.96
Fluor Corp	FLR	13.01	0.64	-31.1	2.85	20.90	-	Talos En	TALO	6.05	-0.09	-79.9	5.00	31.34	-
Francesc's	FRAN	3.06	0.09	-70.5	1.70	19.91	-	Targa Res	TRGP	17.74	1.02	-56.6	3.66	42.13	2.25
FrmEnTech	FET	0.43	-0.01	-74.3	0.15	2.01	-	Target	TGT	158.63	2.01	23.7	90.17	167.42	1.71
FprtrMcMR	FCX	18.82	0.82	43.4	4.82	19.07	-	TC Energy	TRP	40.05	0.07	-24.9	32.37	57.92	6.16
GenElctrCo	GE	7.99	0.14	-28.4	5.48	13.26	0.50	TC PipeLns	TCP	28.68	0.60	-32.2	18.00	44.65	9.07
Genesis En	GEL	4.56	0.56	-77.7	2.58	22.20	13.16	Team Inc	TISI	6.01	0.36	-62.4	3.75	18.50	-
Gesp Tech	GEOS	5.23	0.08	-68.8	4.61	17.66	-	TechnipPMC	FTI	6.04	0.04	-71.8	4.49	21.84	2.15
Gdchtr Ptr	GDP	10.78	0.35	7.4	2.40	11.71	-	TETRA Tech	TTI	0.55	0.00	-72.2	0.22	2.13	-
Gp 1 Auto	GPI	114.88	1.68	14.9	26.26	136.35	-	Tlrd Bnals	TLRDQ	0.07	0.00	-98.3	0.07	5.57	-
Hess Corp	HES	37.00	-0.22	-44.6	26.06	74.11	2.70	TOTAL SE	TOT	32.44	0.10	-41.3	22.13	56.91	9.51
Hess Midst	HESM	16.10	-0.03	-29.0	5.70	25.66	10.97	Transocean	RIG	1.00	0.03	-85.5	0.65	7.28	-
HLBrtn Co	HAL	12.57	-0.14	-48.6	4.25	25.47	1.43	Untd Arlrs	UAL	35.35	2.01	-59.9	17.80	95.16	-
HlxEenSolGr	HLX	2.66	0.06	-72.4	0.99	10.00	-	UntdPrctSv	UPS	163.56	0.98	39.7	82.00	178.01	2.47
Howrd Hghs	HHC	67.17	1.12	-47.0	35.10	129.74	-	US Silica	SLCA	2.89	0.02	-53.0	0.79	6.55	-
Huntsman	HUN	24.85	2.24	19.9	12.23	25.66	2.62	Valaris	VALQP	0.08	0.00	-98.8	0.05	7.76	-
IESC Inc	IES	35.27	1.26	37.5	13.73	39.45	-	Valero En	VLO	39.53	0.56	-57.8	31.00	101.99	9.92
Insperty	NSP	88.09	1.47	2.4	22.59	94.44	1.82	Verzn Comm	VZ	58.15	0.93	-5.3	48.84	62.22	4.32
IONGeophys	IO	1.50	-0.09	-82.7	1.13	9.64	-	W&T Offsh	WTI	1.41	-0.11	-74.6	1.07	6.10	-
JcbsEngGrp	J	97.76	2.11	8.8	59.29	104.00	0.78	Walmart	WMT	143.47	1.51	20.7	102.00	151.33	1.51
JCPennyCo	JCPNJ	0.13	0.00	-88.7	0.02	1.25	-	Wast Cnct	WCN	105.93	2.96	16.7	70.87	106.09	0.77
JPMrgnChs	JPM	104.35	4.10	-25.1	76.91	141.10	3.45	Waste Mgmt	WMR	119.69	3.64	5.0	85.34	126.79	1.82
KBR Inc	KBR	23.94	0.66	-21.5	12.00	31.92	1.67	WhtstnREIT	WSR	6.41	0.22	-52.9	4.71	14.19	6.55
Kindr Mrgn	KMI	11.90	0.07	-43.8	9.42	22.58	8.82	WlgrnsBtsA	WBA	37.53	1.24	-36.3	33.36	64.50	4.98
Kirby Corp	KEX	40.48	0.38	-54.8	32.76	92.30	-	Wlfrgr & W	WFC	22.33	0.45	-58.5	20.76	54.75	1.79
Kraton	KRA	26.92	0.81	6.3	4.45	31.44	-	WngtrnRlty	WRI	16.60	0.02	-66.9	12.21	32.17	4.34
Kroger Co	KR	32.72	0.63	12.9	25.54	37.22	2.20	Wstlk ChemP	WLK	73.65	3.50	5.0	28.99	75.65	1.47
LGI Homes	LGIH	123.19	2.21	74.4	33.00	132.98	-	WstlkChemP	WLKP	19.45	1.31	-26.4	10.31	26.48	9.69
Luby's Inc	LUB	2.89	0.19	31.4	0.46	3.30	-	WstrnMdstP	WES	8.27	0.40	-58.0	2.90	22.43	15.04



Legal Notices

To place legal notices
email legals@chron.com or call 713.224.6868.

Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices

NOTICE OF SALE

CHAMBERS COUNTY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Chambers County)

\$43,030,000

Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020

“Not Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations”

The Board of Directors of Chambers County Improvement District No. 1 (the “District”) will publicly receive sealed bids on up to \$43,030,000 Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020 (the “Bonds”) on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 11:30 A.M., Houston Time, at the offices of Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. At a Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 1:00 P.M., Houston Time, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District. It is anticipated that said meeting will be held via telephone conference call pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor’s proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. If the Governor’s proclamation is lifted or expires or if the Governor terminates the partial suspension of the Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, a meeting in a physical location may become necessary. In such case, the Board will conduct the meeting at the District’s official meeting place, at 7500 FM 1405, Baytown, Texas 77523.

A bid for the Bonds, may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the “President and Board of Directors, Chambers County Improvement District No. 1” at the above address of Masterson Advisors LLC. All bidders must submit a signed “Official Bid Form” and a bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$860,600 payable to the order of “Chambers County Improvement District No. 1” as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the “Official Notice of Sale.”

The Bonds will mature serially on September 1, 2022 through 2045 and will be dated December 1, 2020. The “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form” may be obtained from the District’s Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form.”

Mr. Wm. F. Scott
President, Board of Directors
Chambers County Improvement District No. 1
Chambers County, Texas

NOTICE OF SALE

CHAMBERS COUNTY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Chambers County)

\$8,300,000

Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2020A

“Not Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations”

The Board of Directors of Chambers County Improvement District No. 1 (the “District”) will publicly receive sealed bids on up to \$8,300,000 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2020A (the “Bonds”) on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 11:30 A.M., Houston Time, at the offices of Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. At a Board of Directors meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 1:00 P.M., Houston Time, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District. It is anticipated that said meeting will be held via telephone conference call pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor’s proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. If the Governor’s proclamation is lifted or expires or if the Governor terminates the partial suspension of the Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, a meeting in a physical location may become necessary. In such case, the Board will conduct the meeting at the District’s official meeting place, at 7500 FM 1405, Baytown, Texas 77523.

A bid for the Bonds, may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the “President and Board of Directors, Chambers County Improvement District No. 1” at the above address of Masterson Advisors LLC. All bidders must submit a signed “Official Bid Form” and a bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$166,000 payable to the order of “Chambers County Improvement District No. 1” as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the “Official Notice of Sale.”

The Bonds will mature serially on September 1, 2022 through 2045 and will be dated December 1, 2020. The “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form” may be obtained from the District’s Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form.”

Mr. Wm. F. Scott
President, Board of Directors
Chambers County Improvement District No. 1
Chambers County, Texas

NOTICE OF SALE

CONROE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Montgomery County)

\$2,500,000

Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020A

“Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations”

The Board of Directors of Conroe Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the “District”) will publicly receive sealed bids on up to \$2,500,000 Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020A (the “Bonds”) on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 9:45 A.M., Central Standard Time, at the offices of Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. At a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 11:30 A.M., Central Standard Time, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District. It is anticipated that said meeting will be held via telephone conference call pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor’s proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. If the Governor’s proclamation is lifted or expires or if the Governor terminates the partial suspension of the Texas Open Meetings Act, a meeting in a physical location may become necessary. In such case, the Board will conduct the meeting at the offices of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P., 611 Longmire Road, Conroe, Texas, 77304.

A bid for the Bonds, may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the “President and Board of Directors, Conroe Municipal Utility District No. 1” at the above address of Masterson Advisors LLC. All bidders must submit a signed “Official Bid Form” and a bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$50,000 payable to the order of “Conroe Municipal Utility District No. 1” as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the “Official Notice of Sale.”

The Bonds will mature serially on September 1, 2022 through 2043, and will be dated December 1, 2020. The “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form” may be obtained from the District’s Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form.”

Mr. David Townsend
President, Board of Directors
Conroe Municipal Utility District No. 1
Montgomery County, Texas

NOTICE OF SALE

CHARTERWOOD MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas
Located within Harris County, Texas)

\$5,500,000
Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020

Bids to be Submitted: 11:30 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Opened: 7:00 P.M., Central Time
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Charterwood Municipal Utility District (the “District”) will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of the Bonds at the designated meeting place outside the boundaries of the District, at the offices of 16444 Cutten Road, Houston, Texas 77070 at 7:00 P.M., Central Time, Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Address of Bids: Bids, which must be submitted in duplicate on the Official Bid Form and plainly marked “Bid for Bonds,” should be addressed to “President and Board of Directors of Charterwood Municipal Utility District,” and delivered to the District’s Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 11:30 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 11:30 A.M., Central Time, Tuesday, November 17, 2020, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bids must be accompanied by a Bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$110,000 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.

Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the “Official Notice of Sale” and the “Preliminary Official Statement” which may be obtained from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010; Financial Advisor to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and the “Official Bid Form.”

Board of Directors
Charterwood Municipal Utility District

NOTICE OF SALE

FALL CREEK MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas
Located within Harris County, Texas)

\$1,880,000
Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2020A

Bids to be Submitted: 10:00 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Opened: 12:00 P.M., Central Time
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Fall Creek Management District (the “District”) will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of the Bonds at a Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 12:00 P.M., Central Time. Said meeting will be taken place via telephonic conference in accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the temporary suspension of various provisions thereof effective March 16, 2020, by the Governor of Texas in accordance with the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, all as related to the Governor’s proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference call-in number will be 1-346-248-7799; the meeting ID will be 81060011724; and the passcode will be 730063#. This telephone conference call is authorized in compliance with the suspension of certain provisions of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code pursuant to the March 16, 2020, Declaration by the Governor of the State of Texas (the “Declaration”). Should the Declaration expire or be revoked, this meeting will be held instead at 1980 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1380, Houston, Texas 77056.

Address of Bids: Bids, which must be submitted in duplicate on the Official Bid Form and plainly marked “Bid for Bonds,” should be addressed to “President and Board of Directors of Fall Creek Management District” and delivered to the District’s Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 10:00 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 10:00 A.M., Central Time, Tuesday, November 17, 2020, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bids must be accompanied by a Bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$37,600 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.

Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the “Official Notice of Sale” and the “Preliminary Official Statement” which may be obtained from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010; Financial Advisor to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and the “Official Bid Form.”

Board of Directors
Fall Creek Management District

NOTICE OF SALE

GALVESTON COUNTY FRESH WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO. 6
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Galveston County)

\$3,000,000
Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020
“Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations”

Bids Due: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 12:00 P.M. (Noon), Houston Time
Bid Award: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 5:00 P.M., Houston Time

Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors of Galveston County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6, of Galveston County, Texas (the “District”) will publicly receive bids on the Bonds described above on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 12:00 P.M. (Noon), Houston Time, at the offices of Post Oak Municipal Advisors LLC, 820 Gessner Road, Suite 1350, Houston, Texas 77024. At a Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 5:00 P.M., Houston Time, at the District’s meeting place at the Public Safety Building, at 747 Tiki Drive, Village of Tiki Island, Texas 77554, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District.

Address for Bids: Bids for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone, or directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the “President and Board of Directors of Galveston County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6” at the offices of Post Oak Municipal Advisors LLC, 820 Gessner Rd., Suite 1350, Houston, Texas 77024, all as described in the “Official Notice of Sale.” All bids must be submitted on the “Official Bid Form” and accompanied by a Bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$60,000 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the “Official Notice of Sale.”

Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the “Official Notice of Sale” and the “Preliminary Official Statement,” which may be obtained from Post Oak Municipal Advisors LLC, 820 Gessner Rd., Suite 1350, Houston, Texas 77024, Financial Advisor to the District (c/o Mr. Misael Flores, Vice President, mflores@postoakma.com). This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” the “Preliminary Official Statement,” and the “Official Bid Form.”

Board of Directors
Galveston County Fresh Water Supply District No. 6

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice – CDBG DR-17 Multifamily

The City of Houston (City), through its Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD), is proposing to award Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery 2017 grant funds (CDBG DR-17) up to the amount designated below, for the following development:

- Connect South, located at 6440 Hillcroft Street will be a 77-unit mixed income apartment development for families. This project will include acquisition and construction. This project is in City Council District J. The City will award up to \$9,000,000.00 in CDBG DR-17 grant funds for this development.

The public has thirty (30) days to comment on these proposed items. The thirty-day period extends from Friday, November 6, 2020 until Sunday, December 6, 2020. For additional information on these items, contact Kennisha London at (832) 394-6197. Written comments can be submitted via email to Kennisha.London@houstontx.gov. Upon completion of the thirty-day public comment period, the project will be submitted to City Council for approval.

For specific questions or concerns about fair housing or landlord/tenant relations, please contact Yolanda Guess-Jeffries at (832) 394-6240. For any information about our Complaints and Appeals Process, please access the following: <https://recovery.houstontx.gov/complaints/> and <https://recovery.houstontx.gov/request-for-appeal/>.

SEALED QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY AT PROCUREMENT PROPOSALS@PORTHOUSTON.COM UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON DECEMBER 9, 2020 FOR THE FOLLOWING: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATING SERVICES (RFQ). NO PRELIMINARY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS PROJECT. FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROCUREMENT MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RFQ FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY’S WEBSITE, <http://buyspeed.poha.com/bso>, WHERE VENDOR REGISTRATION AND “PROCUREMENT PACKAGE” DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

NOTICE OF SALE

GENERATION PARK MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas, located within Harris County)

\$7,985,000
Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020A

Bids to be Submitted: 9:30 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Opened: 11:00 A.M., Central Time
Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Generation Park Management District (the “District”) will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of its \$7,985,000 Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020A (the “Bonds”) at a Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 11:00 A.M., Central Time. Said meeting will be taken place via telephonic conference in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the temporary suspension of various provisions thereof effective March 16, 2020, by the Governor of the State of Texas (the “Governor”) in accordance with the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, all as related to the Governor’s proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference call-in number will be 1-877-304-9269 and the passcode will be 571475#. This telephone conference call is authorized in compliance with the suspension of certain provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code pursuant to the March 16, 2020, Declaration by the Governor (the “Declaration”). Should the Declaration expire or be revoked, this meeting will be held instead at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 1400, Houston, Texas 77056.

Address of Bids: Bids, which can be submitted either electronically or in duplicate on the “Official Bid Form” and plainly marked “Bid for Bonds,” should be addressed to “President and Board of Directors of Generation Park Management District” and delivered to the District’s Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 9:30 A.M., Central Time, on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 9:30 A.M., Central Time, Wednesday, November 18, 2020, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bids must be accompanied by a Bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$159,700 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.

Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the “Official Notice of Sale” and “Preliminary Official Statement,” which may be obtained from the District’s Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement” and “Official Bid Form.”

Board of Directors
Generation Park Management District

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

WOODRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
(A political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Montgomery County)

\$4,300,000

Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020A

“Not Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations”

The Board of Directors of Woodridge Municipal Utility District (the “District”) will publicly receive sealed bids on up to \$4,300,000 Unlimited Tax Bonds, Series 2020A (the “Bonds”) on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:30 A.M., Houston Time, at the offices of Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. At a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 12:00 Noon, Houston Time, the Board will immediately take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District. It is anticipated that said meeting will be held via teleconference call, pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended and as modified by the Governor of Texas, by the Governor’s proclamation on March 13, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. If the Governor’s proclamation is lifted or expires or if the Governor terminates the partial suspension of the Texas Open Meetings Act, a meeting in a physical location may become necessary. In such case, the Board will conduct the meeting at the District’s regular meeting place at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston Texas, 77027.

A bid for the Bonds, may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the “President and Board of Directors, Woodridge Municipal Utility District” at the above address of Masterson Advisors LLC. All bidders must submit a signed “Official Bid Form” and a bank Cashier’s Check in the amount of \$86,000 payable to the order of “Woodridge Municipal Utility District” as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the “Official Notice of Sale.”

The Bonds will mature serially on September 1, 2022 through 2044 and will be dated December 1, 2020. The “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form” may be obtained from the District’s Financial Advisor, Masterson Advisors LLC, 3 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, Texas 77046. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the “Official Notice of Sale,” “Preliminary Official Statement,” and “Official Bid Form.”

Mr. Joseph Manning
President, Board of Directors
Woodridge Municipal Utility District
Montgomery County, Texas

PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT VARIANCE OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION (Virtual Meeting COVID 19)

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the replating (or partial replating) of Scenic Woods being all or part of lot 11 block 55 as recorded in Volume 46 Page 9 of the Harris County Map/Deed Records for the purpose of create two (2) single-family residential lots and to revise the building line.

The new subdivision name is Scenic Woods Partial Replat No 3 .

The City will send out written notice of a public hearing to all owners of property within 250’ of the boundary of the plat and all parcels along or across from a blockface that abuts any street or private roadway extending 500 feet from the plat as measured along the centerline of any street or private roadway that abuts the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a virtual meeting and public hearing on this replat on **Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at 2:30 PM via Microsoft Teams**. The video conference will allow for a two-way video/audio communication with the Houston Planning Commission.

For information on how to join the meeting or submit comments as a speaker, visit our website: www.houstonplanning.com or Call: 832-393-6624. Contact the applicant at C arta Gomez LLC /Javier Carta Martinez ph 281 299 0992 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information.

LEGAL NOTICE
Choice Partners (CP) a national cooperative (a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE)), will be accepting proposals in response to the following Request for Proposal (RFP).
● RFP 21/017KN for Fine Paper and Related Items
All proposals are due Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 2:00pm central time. Interested propos ers may go to www.choicepartners.org and register to download the solicitation or call 713.696.1337.
MWBE, SBE, and HUB vendor participation is encouraged. It is HCDE policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, limited English proficiency or handicapping condition in its programs.

To place bids or proposal notices email legals@chron.com

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the partial replat of Briarmeadow Section 1 being a 0.5739 acre tract out of Reserve “C”, Block 17, as recorded in Volume 54, Page 4 of the Harris County Map Records for the purpose of creating two reserves. The new subdivision is Briarmeadow Sec 1 Partial Replat No 1
The City will send out written notices of a public hearing, to owners of properties within 250’ of the boundary of the plat and all parcels along or across from a block face that abuts any street or private roadway extending 500’ from the plat as measured along the centerline of any street or private roadway that abuts the boundary of the plat.
The Houston Planning Commission will hold a virtual meeting and public hearing on this replat on **Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 2:30 PM via Microsoft Teams**. The video conference will allow for a two-way video/ audio communication with the Houston Planning Commission. For information on how to join the meeting or submit comments as a speaker, visit our website: www.houstonplanning.com or Call: 832-393-6624. Contact the applicant at 713-780-0909 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 2020-48540
Plaintiff: JOSE ESCOBAR vs. Defendant: DERRICK JORDAN
IN THE 127TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Harris To: DERRICK JORDAN (WHOSE ADDRESS AND WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN)
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the **127TH Judicial District Court** of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o’clock A.M. Monday, the **7TH day of DECEMBER, 2020**, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the **PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL PETITION INTERROGATORIES FOR PRODUCTION, REQUEST FOR ADMISSION, AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE**, filed in said Court on **AUGUST 13, 2020**, in a suit numbered **2020-48540** docketed of said court, wherein, **JOSE ESCOBAR**, the Plaintiff, **DERRICK JORDAN**, the Defendant, the nature of plaintiff’s demand being and the said petition alleging: **Motor Vehicle Accident**
This lawsuit arises from a traffic collision that occurred on or about August 14, 2018. Plaintiff was traveling on Westheimer Road in Houston, Texas when Defendant Derrick Jordan exited a private drive in front of plaintiff, suddenly, without warning, and without yielding the right of way to Plaintiff, causing a collision. Defendant is liable for his negligence in failing to act as a reasonable and prudent driver. Plaintiff injuries and damages were result of defendant’s negligence. Notice thereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive week previous to the **December 7, 2020**, in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the **2nd day of December**, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days **before said return day. HEREIN FAIL NOT**, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.
WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk, Harris County Texas **21st day of OCTOBER, 2020**.
(SEAL)
Newspaper: **HOUSTON CHRONICLE**
Issued at the request of: Brian Stansell
Smith & Hassler
1225 North Loop West, Suite 525
Houston, TX 77008
(713) 739-1250
Bar Number: 24063015
Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas
By: _____/s/_____
Brianna J. Denmon , Deputy District Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES & ANNIVERSARIES

TWO THINGS YOU BETTER NOT FORGET ABOUT

Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at legals@chron.com or calling 713.224.6868

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
HoustonChronicle.com



Legal Notices

To place legal notices
email legals@chron.com or call 713.224.6868.

Legals/Public Notices

Legals/Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 34 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances, the Houston Police Department gives notice that within the next 30 days it expects to petition a municipal court to dispose of property that is currently held in the below listed cases. If you believe that you may have a claim to any property held in one of these cases, or if your name is listed next to one of these cases, you are urged to contact the division concerned as listed below. The persons or businesses identified in this notice may have a potential claim, but are in no way guaranteed to be awarded any of the property being held. Those persons or businesses listed are not necessarily criminal defendants, suspects or the targets of any investigation.

Cases being submitted by the **Auto Theft Division:**

99-LINC	1LNHM81W3XY62154
99-SATR	1G8ZK5278XZ239921
05-HYUN	KMHNDN46D35U098456
01-JEEP	1J4GW48S91C692182
88-VANT	5DLBU0918JH024056
02-TOYT	5TDZT34AX2S069877
93-HOND	JHMCB7680PC028773

Any questions regarding the information contained in this notice for the above listed case numbers should be directed to the **Auto Theft Division at 713-308-3500.**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALIEF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Alief ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m., November 17, 2020 in the Administration Building Board Room, located at 4250 Cook Road Houston, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Alief ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

Mr Tammy Spurlen I am no longer responsible for any other debts other than my own.

Legal Bids & Proposals

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

IDEA Public Schools will accept bids until 5:00 PM, CT, November 16, 2020 for:

Invitation for Bid
IDEA Public Schools - Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies
14-IFB-PPE-2021

Bid documents will be available beginning **October 28, 2020** via the IDEA Public Schools Website at <https://ideapublicschools.org/our-story/finance-budget/> under the section titled RFP Documents.

Proposals will be accepted until 5:00 PM CT on **Monday, November 16** via email to: Viet.Nguyen@ideapublicschools.org. Faxed and hard copy submissions will not be accepted.

IDEA Public Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, and to accept the proposal(s) most advantageous to the District.

Splendora ISD is seeking E-Rate services for E-Rate Funding Year 2021 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). All interested vendors please visit: <https://portal.usac.org/suite/> Form 470 Application Number: 210002983 Please see RFP at <https://erate.esc12.net/R12>

Legals/Public Notices

CAUSE NO. 2020-46327

In re: \$

Isaac Green \$

Requesting Discovery of:

\$ Kirby Inland Marine, L.P., \$

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF \$

HARRIS COUNTY,

TEXAS \$

334TH JUDICIAL DIS-

TRICT \$

FIFTH AMENDED NO-

TICE OF HEARING

Please be advised that

PLAINTIFF'S RULE 202

VERIFIED PETITION has

been set for submission

on **Monday, November**

16, 2020 at 6:00 a.m. in

the 334th Judicial District

Court of Harris County,

Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

ARNOLD & ITKIN LLP

/s/ Ryan S. MacLeod

Jason A. Itkin

Texas Bar No. 24032461

Cory Itkin

Texas Bar No. 24050808

Ryan S. MacLeod

Texas State Bar No.

24068346

Michael Darling

Texas State Bar No.

24105778

6009 Memorial Drive

Houston, Texas 77007

Telephone: (713) 222-

3800

Facsimile: (713) 222-3850

e-service@arnolditkin.com

jaiteam@arnolditkin.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

LEGAL NOTICES & CLOWNS

TWO THINGS THAT HAVE A RIGHT TIME AND PLACE

Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at legals@chron.com or calling 713.224.6868

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE
HoustonChronicle.com

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE BIDS

Harris County is requesting offers for the projects listed below. Offer requirements, including item description(s), submission due dates and times, type of pricing, payment method, and any bonding requirements, may be obtained on line at <https://purchasing.harriscountytx.gov>, or in the Purchasing Agent's office. Return offers to Harris County Purchasing Agent, 1001 Preston, Suite 670, Houston, Texas 77002, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time in Houston, Texas on specified due dates.

Bids/Proposals Due November 9, 2020

Job	20/0280	Construction of El Franco Lee Service Plaza
Job	20/0287	Professional Architectural and/or Engineering Services to Conduct a County Wide Park Safety and Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Study
Job	20/0288	Renovation to Existing X-Ray Room to Support a New Digital Imaging X-Ray System at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
Job	20/0289	Innovative, Evidenced-Based, and Promising Model Approaches to Community Engagement Programs
Job	20/0291	Renovation of Existing X-Ray Room to Support a New Radio-Fluoro System at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
Job	20/0294	Public Relations/Public Affairs Consulting Services
Job	20/0295	Executive Recruitment Services
Job	20/0300	Access Road Repairs at Greens Bayou Wetland Mitigation Bank
Job	20/0302	Revitalization and Redevelopment Planning Study
Job	20/0303	Renovation of Existing Gamma Camera Suite in the Nuclear Medicine Department at Ben Taub Hospital
Job	20/0305	Sports Tournaine nt Coordinator
Job	20/0306	Court Nonappearance Research Services
Job	20/0308	Mowing and Various Maintenance Services for the Central West Region
Job	20/0310	Asphalt Overlay of Various Roads (Package 2020-2), Precinct 3
Job	20/0312	COVID-19 Testing Services
Job	20/0313	Riprap and Related Items
Job	20/0314	De-icing/anti-icing Material and Related Items

Bids/Proposals Due November 16, 2020

Job	20/0298	Strategic Consulting for Supply Chain Management Services
Job	20/0309	Mowing and Various Maintenance Services for the Southeast Region
Job	20/0311	Community Flood Resilience Facilitator
Job	20/0317	Data, Policy, and Financial Advisory Services
Job	20/0318	Vending Machine Services
Job	20/0319	Maintenance and Associated Services for Fiber Optic Cable Communications Systems and Related Items
Job	20/0320	Armored Car Services
Job	20/0321	Busses
Job	20/0326	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
Job	20/0327	Independent Evaluation of the Kinship Navigator Program
Job	20/0329	Fire Suppression Foam

Bids/Proposals Due November 23, 2020

Job	20/0322	Construction Manager-Agent (Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on Tuesday, November 17, 2020)
Job	20/0324	Asphalt Overlay of Various Roads (Package 2020-3), Precinct 3
Job	20/0325	Bike Lane Sweeping Services and Related Items at Various Locations, Precinct 1
Job	20/0328	Recycling Services and Document Destruction
Job	20/0330	Environmental Consulting Services and Related Items
Job	20/0332	Road Construction at Hufsmith Road from Burroughs Park to Saddled Cliff Trail, Precinct 4
Job	20/0336	Wholesale Clothing, Hygiene, Dry Goods and Related Items

Bids/Proposals Due November 30, 2020

Job	20/0337	Repairs/replacement of concrete pavement, curbs, driveways, sidewalks and related items, Precinct 2
Job	20/0281	Food Services
Job	20/0301	Body Worn Cameras
Job	20/0323	Facade Renovation at Ben Taub Hospital (Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference on Tuesday, November 17, 2020)
Job	20/0331	Graffiti and Illegal Dumping Abatement Workforce Pilot Program
Job	20/0334	Bridge Repairs (2017-2018 Brinsap Bridge), Precinct 3

Bids/Proposals Due February 1, 2021

Job	20/0315	Programs or Interventions to be funded by the Harris County Early Childhood Job
Job	20/0333	Monitoring and valuation of the Short- and Long-term Causal Impacts

Dwight Dopslauf, C.M.P., CPPO
Purchasing Agent

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF HOUSTON

The City Secretary for the City of Houston will receive bids at 900 Bagby, Room P101, Houston, Texas for the following project:

WILLIAM P. HOBBY (HOU) ROADWAY GAP WAYFINDING PROJECT
SOLICITATION NO. HJA-HRGW-2021-011; PN. 243

Bid Due Date/Time: Thursday, December 31, 2020 10:30 A.M. (CST)

Project Location: William P. Hobby Airport (HOU), Houston, Texas

Senior Procurement Specialist: Jorge Ardines, 281-233-1620
jorge.ardines@houston.tx.gov

Pre-bid Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 10:00 A.M. (CST); Microsoft Teams Tele-Conference via link: <https://bit.ly/3mk9tAV>

The Bid Document and related materials are available at the Houston Airport System's website <http://www.fly2houston.com/biz/opportunities/solicitations/>

Contract Goal: 20 % (MBE - 14%; WBE - 6%)

Bid Documents in **electronic format** may be examined at plan rooms listed on the City plan holders' list or listed in Document 00210 - Supplementary Instructions to Bidders.

Dated: _____ Pat J. Daniel, City Secretary
(Publish Fridays, November 6, and November 13, 2020)

The Houston Housing Authority (HHA), is soliciting sealed bids with the intent to establish a contract for street repairs at Long Drive Townhomes in accordance with the requirements and terms and conditions specified in Invitation for Bid (IFB) IFB 20-53.

Interested parties are highly encouraged (but not required), to participate in a Pre-bid Teleconference that will be held 10 A.M. Central Daylight Time (CDT), November 9, 2020 per the instructions in Exhibit A of IFB 20-53.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 10 A.M. CDT November 30, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority Attn: Austin Y. Crotts, Procurement Specialist, Re: IFB 20-53 Street Repair at Long Drive Townhomes - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

IFB 20-53 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with IFB 20-53 in the subject line.



A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

The Houston Housing Authority ("HHA"), is soliciting sealed proposals for its Project Based Voucher Program in accordance with the requirements and the terms and conditions specified in Request for Proposal (RFP) 20-54.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 11 A.M. Central Daylight Time (CDT) November 18, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority Attn: Arzoo Kazmi, Subject: RFP 20-54 Project Based Voucher DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

RFP 20-54 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with RFP 20-54 in the subject line.



A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

Aldine ISD is extending the deadline to accept sealed proposals on its eBid system until 12/12/2020 at 4 pm for Lawn Equipment Repairs. Vendors must register and submit a proposal in the eBid system at www.aldineisd.org.

TABC Notices

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR A BEER RETAIL DEALER'S OFF-PREMISE LICENSE, A WINE ONLY PACKAGE STORE PERMIT AND A PACKAGE STORE TASTING PERMIT BY QUALITY LICENSING CORP. D/B/A QUALITY LICENSING CORP. (STORE #7357) LOCATED AT 8208 BARKER CYPRESS RD, HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS 77433. OFFICERS OF SAID COMPANY ARE JOHN SCUDDER, PRESIDENT/CEO; ANDREA M. LAZENBY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY; MATTHEW W. ALLEN, VP; WAYNE HAMILTON, VP; DAVID L. READING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Humble ISD is accepting electronic responses for the following Request for Proposals:
RFP 2021-004 Bulk Beverage Products 12/11/2020 @ 10:00 AM
RFP 2021-010 District Wide Roofing & Waterproofing Services 12/10/2020 @ 2:00 PM
Proposals may be viewed and submitted electronically through Humble ISD's on line bidding system: <https://humbleisd.onwave.net/Login.aspx>. Please register by clicking supplier registration. Once registered you need to view the bid in order to submit.

Notice to Creditors

Notice To Creditors Ad \$74.00*

Call the Legals Team 713-224-6868 Ext. 6435 or 4204

***\$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication**
***\$1.92 per line over 36 lines**

No. 488128
IN THE PROBATE COURT
NO. 1
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
IN THE ESTATE OF
EDNA MAUDE THOMPSON,
DECEASED
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EDNA MAUDE THOMPSON, Deceased, were issued on October 23, 2020, under Docket No. 488128, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Harris County, Texas to GEORGIANA THOMPSON.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Executor addressed as follows:
Georgiana Thompson
Estate of Edna Maude Thompson
c/o Stephen Owen Summer, PC
9600 Escarpment Blvd. Suite 745 PMB 29
Austin, Texas 78749
All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 4th day of November 2020.
Respectfully submitted,
STEPHEN OWEN SUMMER, PC
By: /s/ Stephen Summer
Stephen Summer
Attorney for Executor
State Bar No.: 24027898
9600 Escarpment Blvd., Suite 745 PMB 29
Austin, Texas 78749
Telephone (512) 327-3399
Facsimile (512) 327-3409
Email: ssummer@summer-law.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of THOMAS JAMES SULLIVAN DECEDENT, were issued on July 22, 2019, pending in the Probate Court No. 4 of Fort Bend County, Texas, to MARY JANE SULLIVAN EXECUTOR. Claims may be presented to the estate at Mary Jane Sullivan, Independent Executor, Estate of THOMAS JAMES SULLIVAN DECEDENT, 4618 Monarch Bluff Ct, Sugarland, Texas 77479. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

TABC Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Application has been made with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG, BE, BL by Miguel Gutierrez dba Ostioneria Costa Azul, to be located at 7307 Bissonnet St #09, Houston Tx 77074

Email legals@chron.com or call 713.224.6868

IF YOU THINK LEGAL NOTICES ARE PAINFUL, WAIT UNTIL YOU PLACE ONE IN THE WRONG PAPER.

Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at legals@chron.com or calling 713.224.6868

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE
HoustonChronicle.com

LEGAL NOTICES & CLOWNS

TWO THINGS THAT HAVE A RIGHT TIME AND PLACE

Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at legals@chron.com or calling 713.224.6868

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE
HoustonChronicle.com

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 2019-78776
Plaintiff: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS (TRUSTEE SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO BANK OF AMERICA) (A TRUSTEE SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION) (AS TRUSTEE FOR WELLS FARGO HOME EQUITY TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATE SERIES 2004-1)

vs.
Defendant: POTIER, GREGORY, ET AL IN THE 129TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

To: ROMERO GAVARRETE WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 270th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 A.M. of the Monday, the 23RD day of NOVEMBER, 2020, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after the citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the Plaintiffs Original Petition, filed in said court on the 5th day of AUGUST, 2019, in a suit numbered 2019-53566 docket of said court, wherein

DEVONA TENNIE, the Plaintiff, and **ROMERO GAVARRETE** the Defendants, the nature of Plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging:

Title.
Motor Vehicle Accident

SUMMARY
This matter pertains to damages Plaintiff sustained in a car wreck cause by the alleged negligence of Defendant, Romero Gavarrete, the operator of the motor vehicle involved in the motor vehicle collision that occurred on or about June 11, 2018.

Notice thereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four Consecutive weeks previous to the day of NOVEMBER 23, 2020, in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest newspaper published therein, and this Citation shall be returned on the NOVEMBER 17, 2020, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk, Harris County Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas on this 7th day of OCTOBER, 2020.

NEWSPAPER: HOUSTON CHRONICLE
Issued at request of: Birdsell, Andrew
Address: P.O. Box 1599
Gilmer, Texas 75644
Bar No. 24077966 (SEAL)

MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002

By: /s/ Marcella Singleton
MARCELLA SINGLETON, Deputy District Clerk

Plaintiff(s) and UNKNOWN DESCENDANTS OF ALTON POTIER (DECEASED) and UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JOSEPHINE POTIER (DECEASED), Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging: **OTHER**

PROPERTY SYNOPSIS: U. S. Bank National Association, as trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America National Association, as trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Wells Fargo Home Equity Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2004-1, its successors and assigns, by and through its attorney of record, Thuy Frazier of McCarthy & Holthus, LLP, 1255 West 15th Street, Suite 1060, Plano, Texas 75075, brought suit in rem only, against Gregory Potier, Aaron Potier, Byron Potier, Erie Potier, Christopher Potier, Damian Potier, the Unknown Descendants of Alton Potier, deceased and the unknown Heirs at Law of Josephine Potier, Deceased and any other person(s) claiming any right, title, or interest though Alton Potier and Josephine Potier, as their(s)-at-law, to 1915 Harlem Street, Houston, Texas 77020 and legally described to wit:

LOT EIGHT (8), BLOCK TWENTY-FIVE (25) OF ENGLEWOOD ADDITION AN ADDITION IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 53, PAGE 346 OF THE DEED RECORDS OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

Notice thereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive week previous to the 16th day of NOVEMBER, 2020, in some newspaper published in the County of Harris, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest court where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the 18th day of NOVEMBER, 2020 which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk, Harris County Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this 30th day of SEPTEMBER, 2020.

BUSINESS

PAYMENTS

From page B1

ment.

“Home values are increasing approximately twice as fast as typical incomes,” said Chris Glynn, senior economist at Zillow. “There’s this divergence between home values and the salaries and incomes that buyers have to keep up with that.”

That divergence shows no signs of easing, given the combination of extremely low inventory of homes on the market and fierce competition as more millennials look to transition from renting to owning.

Demand for homes has been strong this year, despite a brief slowdown in the early days of the pandemic. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes surged 9.4 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.54 million, the National Association of Realtors reported.

That sales pace was the highest since February 2006, the peak of the last housing bubble, and left just 2.7 months of available homes on the market, a record low.

The thin inventory of homes helped drive up the median selling price to \$311,800, up 15 percent from a year earlier, the NAR said.

A closely watched measure of home values, the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, also has been clocking rising home prices. In August, its most-recent snapshot available, prices climbed 5.2 percent, accelerating

from a 4.1 percent gain in July.

Ultra-low mortgage rates have been a key driver for the housing market. The average rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was at 2.81 percent last week, little changed from the all-time low of 2.80 percent the previous week. The rate averaged 3.78 percent a year ago.

While low mortgage rates have made monthly home loan payments more affordable, they don’t alter the fact that most down payments are indexed to some percentage of the sale price of a home. So, higher prices lead to bigger down payments.

“The second side of that coin is that getting into the position where you have a down payment for a home to begin with has continued to get more difficult,” Glynn said.

How much a buyer opts to put down on a home can vary widely, depending on their mortgage. Some government-backed home loans require as little as 3 percent down, while homebuyers who want to avoid paying private mortgage insurance premiums will put down at least 20 percent.

The average U.S. median down payment has ranged between 10.6 percent and 11.8 percent going back to 2014, according to data from Realtor.com drawn from 35 percent of mortgage transactions nationwide.

A recent analysis by Zillow underscores how costly it can be to save up for a 20 percent down pay-



Melissa Phillip / Staff file photo

While monthly home loan payments are more affordable, most down payments are indexed to a percentage of the sale price.

ment on a home these days.

The real estate listings and data company found that it would take nearly eight months for a U.S. household making the median annual income of \$83,675 to save up the \$51,981 needed for a 20 percent down payment on a \$259,906 home. That home price is based on the average of the middle-third of the housing market.

Apply the same calculus to San Francisco, with a median home price of \$1.1 million, and it would take 17.1 months to come up with the \$222,733 down payment on a median income of \$156,373.

In contrast, homebuyers in Cleveland have a more manageable hurdle, needing a little over five months’ worth of the median

income of \$78,731 to pull together the \$33,387 down payment on a \$166,936 home.

The housing market’s trends point to higher home prices and, as a result, a longer road to saving for a down payment. Home prices have to come down or incomes have to rise sharply to ease the financial pressure on buyers.

In terms of home prices, at least, that doesn’t seem likely. Zillow expects the price of a typical U.S. home to rise 7 percent over the next 12 months.

“What that means is an additional \$3,600 toward a down payment for the median U.S. home,” Glynn said. “That means you have to save an additional \$300 a month over the next year just to keep up.”

RATES

From page B1

Freddie Mac and its sister company, Fannie Mae.

Investors are so hungry for security that they are willing to accept lower yields, driving down the interest paid on bonds and mortgages.

Actions by the Federal Reserve to support the economy, including cutting short-term rates to near zero and buying government- and mortgage-backed bonds, are also driving down mortgage rates.

George Ratiu, senior economist for the real estate listing site Realtor.com, pointed to uncertain election results, high unemployment claims and low returns due to the Federal Reserve’s quantitative easing for driving investors to buy mortgage-backed securities.

He also pointed out that while mortgage rates have fallen dramatically this year, home prices have risen so much that a prospective homebuyers may not be seeing much of a savings.

“For buyers looking to purchase the median-priced home this month, the monthly mortgage payment will be just \$8 less than it would have been last year, for a total savings of about \$99 per year,” Ratiu said. “The steep price gains are placing affordability front-and-center.”

UTMB

From page B1

and is disappointed that this was brought to our members’ attention before Aetna’s.”

Contentious negotiations over the pricing of medical care have driven several contract termination announcements in recent years. Houston Methodist and UnitedHealthcare, and Memorial Hermann and Cigna, planned to end their contracts last year but ended up renewing in 2020. In October, CommonSpirit Health, the parent organization of several Texas-based health care providers including CHI St. Luke’s, said it will terminate its contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas. CHI St. Luke’s will also end its contract with Molina Healthcare



Galveston Daily News file photo

UTMB interim president Ben Raimor announced that the system is ending its contract with Aetna.

by Nov. 25.

Roughly 16,000 people who rely on the medical branch’s system – which includes campuses in

Galveston, League City, Clear Lake and Angleton – are covered by Aetna, which makes up fewer than 5 percent of UTMB’s total patients.

The medical branch’s contract with Aetna will officially terminate May 6. The contract termination does not affect patients who have a Medicare Advantage plan through Aetna. Cheryl Sadro, UTMB’s chief business and finance officer, said there would be an additional grace period for patients covered by Aetna to continue any care in progress, such as cancer treatment.

“Anyone that is in a course of care with us after or on May 6 will get 90 days of in-network care,” Sedro said. The medical branch will also work with individual patients to help identify other health care resources.

The medical branch walking away from Aetna comes at a time when the system is struggling financially, with a \$174 million budget shortfall projected for the next fiscal year. The system announced in September plans to lay off 200 employees – about 15 percent of its workforce – in part because of the COVID-19 pandemic forcing its hospitals to cease all nonessential medical procedures.

In April, UTMB also eliminated overtime pay and asked its employees to take one day off every week using vacation or other paid time off. Employees who were eligible for incentive and bonus pay – nearly 400 of the medical school’s 900 employees, according to Raimor – won’t receive them this year.

But Raimor said the contract

negotiations with Aetna were unrelated to its larger fiscal problems. He noted the medical branch has been trying to renew its contract with the insurance provider as far back as 2010.

“We worked with all the people in the brokerage firms and handling insurance trying to get this resolved,” Raimor said. “There comes a time that you just have to move on and say we can’t reach an agreement on a deal.”

While he didn’t rule out Aetna coming back to the table at some point, Raimor said it would have to be under the terms of beginning “an entire new discussion.”

“We are secure in our decision to walk away,” he said.

Staff writer Gwendolyn Wu contributed to this report.

nick.powell@chron.com

POWER

From page B1

weather the decline, according to the report. But any benefits to the companies’ bottom lines may be short lived, especially if customers who have lost jobs during the pandemic can’t pay their utility bills and the number of COVID-19 cases continues to surge.

Utilities, with their fixed cost structure, are especially vulnerable if revenue levels fall. A 10 percent decline in revenue could mean a 26 percent drop in cash flow and a 43 percent drop in earnings for the typical utility company, according to the report. That kind of drop could jeopardize the quality of electricity service.

Investors are showing



Brett Coomer / Staff file photo

Power companies and electricity retailers are facing declining revenues as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hurt demand.

their concern, keeping the value of utility company stocks essentially flat through the summer while

the S&P grew by about 10 percent, according to the report.

Shares of CenterPoint

closed up 5 percent Thursday to \$22.67 while NRG stock closed down about 1.8 percent to \$32.12 a share.

HOW TO

From page B1

their mega-point deals will entice customers to keep accumulating points for when they start traveling again – and keep using travel-branded credit cards as spending shifts from airfare and hotels to eating at home and online shopping. More credit card transactions mean more merchant fees for the issuers.

For people who are paying attention, there are some real deals to be had.

Marriott, for example, is offering Chase customers with the Marriott-branded credit cards 5 points instead of the usual 1 to 2 points for every \$1 spent at grocery stores and Amazon.com until the end of the year. Chase is offering a similar deal to customers with the Southwest Airlines branded credit card.

My family spent a night at a Marriott hotel on a recent road trip and had the choice of paying either \$110 or 7,500 points. Between groceries and Ama-

zon, it didn’t take long to spend \$1,500 on my Marriott-branded Chase credit card to rack up all the points we needed for the hotel room. The spending – \$1,500 X 5 – generated 7,500 points.

Chase, the nation’s second-largest credit card issuer, said it knows customers are craving flexibility about rewards during the pandemic. “We’re adding value to meet our card members where they are now, as well as providing options to earn and redeem towards things as the environment continues to evolve,” said Chase spokeswoman Ashley Dodd.

But making the most of these deals, usually offered through email, requires some dedication. If you’re a point chaser, like me, you probably have several credit cards, so the first challenge is to remember which deal goes with what card. You may also have to jump through some hoops such as pre-registering for each promotion.

Marriott, for example,

requires enrolling with name and membership number on the company’s website.

The extra bonus deals are often capped, including Southwest’s, at \$1,500 of combined grocery stores and Amazon.com spending. But if you’re a big spender, you could accumulate as many as 7,500 airline points, which will take you round trip in December to Denver, Chicago or New Orleans. Or you can save the points for a more exotic getaway.

This pursuit of points, of course, requires a bit of optimism that someday we’ll go back to squeezing onto airplanes, crowding into hotel lobbies and hoisting drinks in hotel bars. If you’re a glass-half-full person, as I am, keep your eyes on your inbox for some sweet deals.

But one word of warning: The math doesn’t work if you don’t pay off your statement balance in full each month to avoid interest charges, which average 16 percent a year, according to the shopping website CreditCards.com.

Interest will eat you alive and make any point gathering effort worthless.

lynn.sixel@chron.com
twitter.com/lm.sixel

FOREST PARK LAWNDALE

6 Spaces, Lot 945, Sec. 31
Spaces 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 & 9
Monument Base Installed
\$7,000 for 3, \$12,000 for 6

Call 281-734-2203

BROOKSIDE MEMORIAL

13747 Eastex Frwy.
Mausoleum With 2 Crypts
Court of Angels South Wall
Tier BB, Crypts 4A- 4B

Call 281-458-5333

FOREST PARK WESTHEIMER

3 Spaces together, monument privileges, \$7,000 each or negotiable.

CALL DANNY 281-772-1775

Klein Memorial Park @ 14707 FM 1488 Magnolia, TX

(2) plots: Sect B, Lot 57, Spcs 5&6 And Sect B, Lot 64, Spcs 1&2, Double Inherent Rights Asking \$8,000/each or OBO
Contact: Amy Millican at amy14purple@yahoo.com or 281-787-7499

LIFE TRIBUTES

TOMMIE “THOMAS” MARTIN 1951-2020  Tommie's Life Journey May 9, 1951 - Oct 2, 2020 His soul is at peace, his spirit is free, his work is complete. Our family and friends will gather in the Rose Chapel of Mabrie Memorial Mortuary, Saturday, November 7th, 1:00 and celebrate his life. Cherishing the memories are his siblings, Leroy, Beverly Ann and Ida Denise.	MRS. BENNIE JEWEL DOUGLASS YOUNG 1934-2020  passed away on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. There will be a visitation on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00am to 10:00am in the Memorial Chapel of Johnson Funeral Home. The Celebration of Life Services will begin at 10:00am in the Memorial Chapel of Johnson Funeral Home. The interment will be private.
 5000 Alameda Road Houston, TX 77004 (713) 942-7673 office (713) 942-2180 fax www.johnsonmortuary.com	

In Loving Memory Of

HARRY JAMES HIGGINS

1952-2011

January 27, 1952
November 6, 2011

Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone; Character is what angels say about you before the throne of God. Harry, you are still deeply loved and missed! Deborah, Lauren, and Jonathan



In Loving Memory Of

JAMES A. WOOD, COL

1927-2020

James A. Wood, Col
Nov. 6, 1927 - Apr. 2, 2020

Happy Birthday, Jim. We, your family, are remembering you in love on your 93rd Birthday. We love and miss you very much. Rest in peace. Doris, Robert, Elizabeth, Janet, Shelby, and Ted.



LIFE TRIBUTES

**Biggins, George Jr.
Bille, Mary
Cox, Barbara
Higgins, Harry**

**Ives, Robert Jr.
Johnson, Owen
Jung, Rita
Lange, Forest**

**Lenser, Ronald
Luster, Patrick
Martin, Tommie
Venters, Jane**

**Wood, James
Young, Bennie
Zermano, Paul**

MARY "DOLLY" VIRGINIA BILLE

1943-2020

Mary "Dolly" Virginia Bille passed away peacefully at her home on October 17, 2020 after a brief illness. She was born August 26, 1943, was a long time member of the Christ Church Altar Guild and loved the Cathedral. Dolly is survived by her son, Karel (Kar) Hlava; cousin Paul Francis and his wife Sabra; longtime friend Nancy Novosad and her husband Jim and many other relatives, friends and her cat, Bede. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Virginia Campbell Bille.

Dolly spent her life one adventure after another. Learning how to fly and soloing at Hobby airport in Houston when young. She was the President of the Houston Elvis Presley Fan Club as a teen.

She would go on to work for The Gazette in Colorado Springs and then the Houston Chronicle. In 1967 Dolly received special recognition for setting up one of the Chronicle's cookbook photo shoots.

Dolly owned an upscale cookware store in Pearland, Texas called Bain-Marie. She taught cooking classes for both adults and kids. When not at her store, Dolly loved to host parties at her house in Green Tee bringing family and friends together with great food and atmosphere. Dolly was part of the International Association of Culinary Professionals as well as the Houston Culinary

Guild. Her love of cooking would take her to France where she would take other professionals to learn more about French food and cooking.

In the 1980's after moving into Green Tee in Pearland, Texas she became part of the Ladies Association at Golfcrest Country Club. Her mother and father held their 50th wedding anniversary at the club and many other events.

Like her father Lester Bille, Dolly was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

The adventures would continue for Dolly as she traveled around the globe to Ireland, Alaska, India, Peru, France and Norway to add a few. Always a journalist and always with a camera in hand. Dolly loved to take photos of her excursions and the wildlife and scenery. Fly fishing in Jackson, Wyoming was a must do when she was in town.

Dolly was most blessed while attending Christ Church Cathedral and later volunteering with The Altar Guild. She was confirmed at the church in 1965. She cherished being part of it.

She had a great love of animals. Whether it was the birds and all her feeders or the cat patiently stalking those bird feeders in the yard. Dolly loved her Dalmatian, aptly named "C.C.", short for chocolate chip because of the dog's brown spots and over the years would rescue three



cats that were strays. Dolly always made a home for those she loved.

Dolly and her son Kar both loved rock and mineral shows and would often go together to shows around Houston.

Getting food from her house was always a treat and never dull. A simple bowl of grapes would be presented like a photo shoot for a magazine. Kar's birthday cakes were always a special occasion that Dolly would spend time designing and

then make.

She took a lot of pride in everything she did. Dolly lived a wonderful life and enriched those around her.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: November 14th, Saturday, 12:30 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Avenue. The service will be video recorded for those that cannot attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The American Alzheimer's Association.

GEORGE E. BIGGINS JR.

1936-2020

George E. Biggins Jr. joined his beloved wife Betty in Heaven on October 26, 2020, surrounded by his daughter and son-in-law. He was born in Denver, Colorado on August 27, 1936, to George E. Biggins Sr. and Mattie Irene Taylor Biggins. On June 14, 1957, George married Betty Heaton, the true and only love of his life, at Warren Methodist Church in Denver. George began his career with Pacific Airlines in 1962 in Las Vegas, where they welcomed their only child Debra Ann in 1965. George's career took the three of them to Santa Barbara, Denver, and then Houston. Following George's retirement in 1999, he and Betty continued to enjoy life to the fullest, as devoted members of the First United Methodist Church Pearland. In addition to Betty, George was preceded in death by his loving parents. He leaves behind his daughter Debra, her husband Victor



and numerous family and friends to cherish his memory. A memorial service honoring George will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11:00am in the Church Sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church Pearland 2314 N. Grand Blvd, Pearland TX 77581. The family would like to thank the staff of Harbor Hospice of Pearland, who assisted in making dad's final journey peaceful. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in George's name to the National Parkinson's Foundation or Harbor Hospice of Pearland.

BARBARA ANN COX

1949-2020

Barbara Ann Cox, started her life in Saginaw, Michigan in 1949 on the 27th day of February. She passed away 26th day of October 2020 with her family and loved ones all around her pouring out love and well wishes to help carry her to the next leg of her journey. She was a Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma, Sister, Aunt, Friend; everyone who knew her addressed her by one of these titles and she wore them all proudly and as naturally as we wear sweaters in the fall. She was always ready to lend a hand, a shoulder to cry on, a warm meal or even just a cup of coffee. The glue that held this beautifully, crazy, family together. All were welcomed into her home with loving arms. Though she will be missed by many, she will



never be truly gone, as are none that are deeply loved. Her memory will carry on in those she has touched.

Barbara is survived by her husband Stacy, daughter Sonia, sons Danny, Gilbert and Dustin. Her grandchildren; Alexandra, Elizabeth, Josie, Danny, Xander and great grandson, River. Brothers Brian and Bruce, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless loved ones too numerous to list.

ROBERT MILLARD IVES, JR.

1926-2020

Robert Millard Ives, Jr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, born May 11, 1926, in Brooklyn, New York, to Robert and Donna Ives, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2020, in Waco, Texas.

A celebration of his life for family and friends will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home and Cemetery, 13001 Katy Freeway in Hous-



ton, Texas.

To read the full obituary or to leave a tribute or message for the family, please visit www.WHBFfamily.com.

OWEN JOHNSON

1924-2020

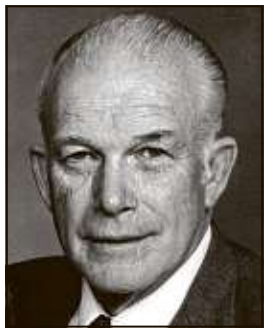
Owen William Johnson, age 96, of Houston, Texas passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Owen was born June 28, 1924 in Detroit, Michigan to parents, William and Ethel Johnson.

He is survived by son Dennis Johnson (Cathy); son Mark Johnson; daughter Lisa Johnson Garrett (Bob); son Kevin Johnson; and daughter Sandy Johnson Bohlen (Mike); and eleven grandchildren.

Owen was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Evelyn Ellis, who passed in December of 1992. They married in Houston, Texas on July 7, 1945.

He attended high school at Plymouth High School in Plymouth, Michigan. He later went on to graduate from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1952.

Owen enlisted with the Army Air Corp on July 4, 1942 in Detroit, Michigan and became a Navigator. His preflight training was done at the Air Force Base. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in August of 1943 and was assigned to Seattle, Washington. He then went to New York, and then Thurleigh, England with the 367th Squadron of the 306 Bomb Group. Owen was shot down in a mission to Kiel, Germany and was held as a POW for sixteen months at Stalag Luft I prison camp. In June of 1945, he was released from the prison camp at the end of World War II. He was then transferred to LeHarve,



France and reassigned to Ellington Field. Owen was released from active duty. In the Korean War in 1951, he was a Navigation Flight Instructor stationed at Ellington Field until the war ended. He resigned from the Reserves in 1953 as a First Lieutenant to raise his children.

Owen taught Metal Shop one year at Jeff Davis High School in 1953. Owen then went into Fire Protection and was employed by Texas Automatic Sprinklers as a District Manager. He began in Sales, Branch Manager and then was District Manager and was employed by them for 30 years. He was self employed as a Fire Protection Consultation for 25 years.

His hobbies were golfing, and he was a member of Oak Forest Baptist Church, became a deacon in 1964, and taught Bible classes.

A private graveside ceremony will take place with Owen's family.

Pat H. Foley & Company

Dignity 1200 West 34th Street
Houston, TX 77018
(713) 869-6261

Condolences may be offered at
www.PathFoleyFuneralDirectors.com

RITA WONG JUNG

1925-2020

Rita Wong Jung passed away on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Rita was born in Canton, China on October 9th, 1925.

In 1948, she married Wong Y. Jung and moved to Amarillo, Texas, where their two sons were born. The family moved to Houston in 1950.

Rita worked with her husband in the grocery business for 30 years. Upon retirement, they moved to Humble, Texas in 1983.

Rita loved living here and made many friends. Rita's favorite hobbies were cooking, knitting, crocheting, working on puzzles, and raising Chinese vegetables in her garden.

For the next 22 years, she worked in the day care at First Methodist Humble. After full retirement, she attended the Senior Center on North Houston Ave.

In 1952, Rita became a member of the Chinese Baptist Church, Houston and was baptized. In Humble, she attended First Methodist



Humble.

In August 1960, she became a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Rita was preceded in death by her husband and is survived by her sons, Richard/ wife Sheryl and Stanley/ wife Kim.

Honorary Pallbearers are Tom Lock, Calvin Yep, James Wong, and Frankie Nguyen.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the church or charity of your choice.

Rosewood Humble
Family Owned Since 1927
281-441-2171
www.rosewood.cc

RONALD A. LENSER

1932-2020

Ronald Arthur Lenser, 88, of Dallas (formerly Houston) passed away on October 9, 2020. Ron was born on October 4, 1932 in West Point, NE.

He first attended Midland University (Fremont, NE) to study music before transferring to the University of Kansas (KU). He graduated from KU in 1956 with a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering. While at KU, Ron was active in the choral arts program and met his future wife when they were assigned as physics lab partners.

Immediately after graduation, Ron married Frances Gayetta Hanna and entered the U.S. Army to serve in the critical skills program at Dugway Proving Ground in Dugway, Utah.

Ron joined Cities Service Oil Company as a reservoir field engineer after his discharge from the U.S. Army. Ron spent the next several years supporting oil production in far North Texas, Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Russell, Kansas. In 1967, Ron joined Ryder Scott Petroleum Consultants and moved from Wichita Falls, TX to Houston, TX to help open and grow the Houston office. In 1980, Ron started R. A. Lenser & Associates, Inc., providing petroleum engineering and geologic services.

Ron had a lifelong passion for music and KU basketball. He sang tenor in every church choir he was a member of and collected a vast library of classical music recordings. He



was a member of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, serving in the choir, as an Elder and as a Sunday School teacher. He also volunteered as a softball coach, coaching his daughters in the early 1970s.

Ron loved to travel and particularly loved the Colorado mountains.

Preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Dorothea Lenser, his brother, Gene Warren Lenser, his sister Dorothy Lenser Piercy and his wife, Frances Hanna Lenser, Ron is survived by his daughters Ronda Lenser Dillard (husband Scott Sims Dillard), Leslie Wynne Lenser and numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to COVID restrictions, the family will not hold a public service. Ron will be inurned at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church at 11612 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas, 77024.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Frances Hanna Lenser Chemistry Scholarship at the University of Kansas. Donations can be made at www.kuendowment.org. (Click "Make a Gift" in the upper menu.)

JANE LOUISE VENTERS

1935-2020

Jane Louise Venters, 85, of Houston, TX departed this life on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at The Crossing Community Church, 3225 West Orem Dr., Houston, TX 77045. Viewing is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Services will begin at 11 a.m. Under the direction of Wynn Funeral Home, 602 32nd Street, Galveston, TX (409)621-1677.



Burial will follow at Houston Memorial Gardens 2426 Cullen Blvd.

PAUL J. ZERMENO

1934-2020

Paul J. Zermeno, of Houston, Texas died peacefully on November 2, 2020 surrounded by his family at the age of 86. He was born the son of Lucas and Ladislada Zermeno. He is survived by his wife, Irene of 60 years; daughter, Lynda (Thomas); sons, Paul Zachary, Richard and Glenn; grandchildren, Bryan (Amber), Alayna (Timothy); great-grandchildren, Penelope and Ivy; sisters Teresa, Yolanda and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by sisters; Margaret, Adell, Dora and brothers; Russell, Florencio, Roy and Abraham. Paul was a man of strong faith and love for his family. He was an Air Force veteran and had a career as a mechanical engineer at KBR for 30 years. He was a member of St Helen's Parish, Jeff Davis Hispanic Alumni Association, St. Patrick's Young at Heart, and First Presbyterian Adults Plus. He enjoyed a passion for



travel and was an avid fan of Houston sports teams.

The family will receive friends for a Visitation Monday, November 9, 2020 from 9:45 to 11:00 AM at St Patrick Catholic Church, 4918 Cochran St, Houston, TX 77009; a Rosary will be held at 10:00 AM; and the Funeral Mass will begin at 11:00 AM.

SouthPark
FUNERAL HOME • CEMETERY
CREMATORY • 281-485-2711
www.southparkfunerals.com

FOREST LEE LANGE

1955-2020



Forest Lee Lange, 65, expired (Friday) October 30, 2020. A walk-through visitation will be held from 3-4:00p.m on (Friday) November 6, 2020 in the chapel of Troy B. Smith Professional Services. Graveside Service will begin at 11:00a.m. on (Saturday) November 7, 2020 at Clemons Cemetery in Pattison, TX. Rev. Charlie J. Hamilton, Officiating.

Troy B. Smith
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
9013 SCOTT ST., (HOUSTON, TX 77051)
(713) 734-TROY (8709) / (713) 734-9510 (FAX)

PATRICK "PAT PAT" DEVON LUSTER

1979-2020



"There's comfort in knowing that a loving God knows best." Mr. Luster's life will be celebrated Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 A.M. at Mabrie Memorial Mortuary. A walk-by visitation will be held prior to service beginning at 9:00 A.M. Please note that masks and social distancing are required. Livestream: www.mabriemortuary.com/PatrickLuster

MABRIE
MEMORIAL MORTUARY
5000 Almeda Road
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 942-7673 office
(713) 942-2180 fax
www.mabriemortuary.com

Send your
condolences at
chron.com/tributes

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

View today's and past obituaries at **chron.com/tributes**

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

WEATHER

HOUSTON'S SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

79
57

TODAY
Mostly sunny and nice

80
61

SATURDAY
Partly sunny and nice

79
66

SUNDAY
Clouds and sunshine

81
68

MONDAY
Variable clouds with a stray shower

84
61

TUESDAY
Clouds and sun, a t-storm possible

82
60

WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny

82
63

THURSDAY
Intervals of clouds and sunshine

AccuWeather Plan your week | Get the NEW app

METRO AREA OUTLOOK
TODAY: Mostly sunny and nice. High 76 to 81. Winds east 6-12 mph. **TONIGHT:** Clear to partly cloudy. Low 54 to 59. Winds east-northeast 3-6 mph.

AIR QUALITY
Today's forecast for the entire metro area by the TCEQ:

Ozone watch
● Good
● Moderate
● Unhealthy for sensitive groups
● Unhealthy
● Very unhealthy
● Hazardous

POLLEN AND MOLD
Yesterday's readings by the Houston Health Department:

Count per cubic meter of air

Tree pollen
Weed pollen
Grass pollen
Mold spores

None
Medium
Low
Low

0
26
4
2605

● Low
● Medium
● Heavy
● Extremely heavy

Note: No measurements on weekends; charts in Sunday and Monday papers reflect forecast ratings from the previous Friday.

COMFORT INDEX
The comfort index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

Today	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.
10	9	9	8	8	9

UV TODAY
Values indicate the exposure to the sun's Ultraviolet rays.

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.
1	3	4	3	1	0

● 0-2, Low
● 3-5, Moderate
● 6-7, High

● 8-10, Very high
● 11+, Extreme

SUN AND MOON

Last quarter
New moon
First quarter
Full moon

Nov 8
Nov 14
Nov 21
Nov 30

Sunset tonight 5:30 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 6:40 a.m.
Moonrise today 10:20 p.m.
Moonset today 11:56 a.m.

NORTH AMERICA TODAY
Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

INTERNATIONAL

	Today	Sat.
Africa		
Cairo	75/63/pc	75/63/pc
Cape Town	62/57/r	66/57/pc
Casablanca	74/62/pc	73/55/pc
Dakar	86/78/s	88/79/s
Johannesburg	79/59/pc	86/64/pc
Lagos	90/77/pc	89/77/pc
Asia/Pacific		
Beijing	65/40/pc	65/33/s
Ho Chi Minh City	90/78/r	89/76/pc
Hong Kong	83/73/pc	84/73/pc
Islamabad	83/53/pc	83/53/pc
Jakarta	90/77/t	91/77/t
Karachi	91/65/pc	94/65/pc
Kuala Lumpur	89/76/t	87/76/t
Manila	89/76/t	88/77/c
New Delhi	87/57/pc	86/56/pc
Seoul	62/53/c	65/41/pc
Shanghai	77/59/pc	75/55/pc
Singapore	87/77/t	85/77/t
Sydney	67/57/pc	67/59/sh
Taipei	88/79/pc	88/71/r
Tokyo	65/58/pc	72/61/pc
Canada		
Calgary	40/27/c	30/16/sn
Edmonton	33/23/pc	28/13/sf
Montreal	62/49/c	59/51/c
Toronto	63/49/pc	65/47/pc
Vancouver	49/37/s	47/34/pc
Winnipeg	44/33/s	45/41/c
Europe		
Amsterdam	53/37/pc	56/43/s
Athens	67/58/pc	66/59/s
Berlin	54/41/pc	53/36/pc
Copenhagen	58/48/pc	53/43/pc
Dublin	52/43/pc	53/50/c
Frankfurt	51/34/s	53/37/s
Geneva	57/43/s	60/48/s
Istanbul	62/53/c	62/55/pc
London	53/41/pc	59/50/c
Madrid	68/53/r	60/46/sh
Moscow	45/39/pc	48/42/pc
Paris	54/45/s	63/53/pc
Prague	48/31/pc	47/32/pc
Rome	68/49/s	67/49/s
Stockholm	56/41/pc	51/39/s
Vienna	50/34/s	54/37/s
Warsaw	50/45/c	52/39/pc
Zurich	52/38/pc	54/41/s
Latin America		
Bogota	66/51/t	65/51/sh
Buenos Aires	73/66/pc	73/65/s
Caracas	88/75/t	87/74/sh
Havana	82/71/sh	82/71/r
Kingston	84/77/r	83/77/r
Lima	67/61/pc	68/61/s
Rio de Janeiro	73/66/pc	76/68/pc
San Juan	86/76/pc	86/76/pc
San Salvador	76/68/t	79/68/t
Santiago	85/52/pc	91/54/pc
Sao Paulo	71/55/pc	77/59/pc
St. Thomas	86/77/pc	86/78/pc
Mexico		
Acapulco	87/74/pc	87/75/c
Cancun	82/76/r	84/74/sh
Guadalajara	78/47/s	80/51/s
Guatemala	75/41/s	78/44/s
Mazatlan	87/71/s	86/71/s
Merida	85/74/t	86/73/c
Mexico City	72/46/pc	74/48/pc
Puerto Vallarta	89/72/s	88/71/pc
Tampico	83/67/pc	84/68/s
Veracruz	82/72/pc	83/71/s
Middle East		
Baghdad	84/60/pc	82/60/pc
Beirut	75/68/pc	75/68/sh
Dubai	92/72/pc	90/74/s
Jerusalem	64/54/pc	66/57/pc
Kabul	68/36/s	72/37/s
Mecca	92/71/pc	92/72/pc
Riyadh	90/85/pc	88/64/pc
Tehran	74/56/pc	74/55/pc
Tel Aviv	74/64/sh	76/64/pc

FOR THE RECORD
George Bush Intercontinental Airport through 3 p.m. yest.

Temperature	Degrees F
High	80
Low	56
Normal high	77
Normal low	55
Record high	88 in 2017
Record low	31 in 1991
Precipitation	Inches
24 hours through 3 p.m. yest.	0.00
Month to date	0.00
Normal month to date	0.76
Year to date	36.44
Normal year to date	42.57
Other readings	
Top wind speed	10 mph
High barometer	30.27 in.
Low barometer	30.15 in.
High dewpoint	63°
Low dewpoint	58°
Average dewpoint	60°
High humidity	100%
Low humidity	48%

KEY TO CONDITIONS

s-sunny
pc-partly cloudy
c-cloudy
sh-showers
t-thunderstorms

r-rain
sf-snow flurries
sn-snow
i-ice

TEXAS

	Today	Sat.
Abilene	78/56/s	75/57/s
Amarillo	76/47/s	71/49/pc
Austin	80/50/pc	81/58/s
Beaumont	78/59/s	76/63/pc
Brownsville	82/63/pc	85/65/pc
Bryan/College St.	79/56/pc	80/61/s
Corpus Christi	81/60/pc	82/63/s
Dallas/Ft. Worth	76/54/s	76/58/s
El Paso	81/55/c	81/58/c
Galveston	76/66/s	75/67/pc
Kingsville	83/59/pc	83/64/pc
Laredo	83/59/pc	84/62/pc
Longview	75/52/s	75/57/s
Lubbock	76/48/s	71/51/pc
McAllen	85/61/pc	86/66/pc
Midland/Odessa	78/51/c	74/55/pc
San Angelo	79/52/pc	77/55/c
San Antonio	79/55/pc	81/61/pc
Texarkana	75/55/s	75/59/s
Victoria	82/53/s	83/61/s
Waco	77/51/s	78/58/s

NATIONAL

	Today	Sat.
Albany, NY	67/42/s	66/42/pc
Albuquerque	71/49/pc	69/47/pc
Anchorage	28/21/pc	27/25/sn
Atlanta	73/59/pc	73/62/pc
Baltimore	72/45/s	73/49/s
Billings	58/39/pc	58/35/c
Birmingham	75/60/pc	76/64/c
Boise	69/38/c	54/34/r
Boston	66/49/pc	68/49/pc
Buffalo	65/49/s	69/50/s
Charleston, SC	78/64/pc	79/66/pc
Charlotte	74/54/pc	74/58/c
Chicago	71/52/s	72/55/s
Cincinnati	69/44/s	71/48/s

NATIONAL cont.

	Today	Sat.
Cleveland	71/48/s	71/53/s
Columbus	70/42/s	72/50/s
Denver	74/50/pc	73/46/s
Des Moines	73/56/pc	71/56/pc
Detroit	73/54/s	69/46/s
Duluth	65/53/pc	61/54/c
Fairbanks	32/20/sn	25/14/c
Great Falls	50/36/c	45/18/c
Hartford	72/45/pc	72/45/pc
Honolulu	86/74/pc	86/74/pc
Indianapolis	70/45/s	71/50/s
Jackson, MS	76/61/pc	76/65/c
Juneau	28/19/sn	33/25/pc
Kansas City	72/54/s	73/57/pc
Las Vegas	86/54/pc	60/44/pc
Little Rock	73/53/s	72/57/pc
Los Angeles	75/55/pc	60/49/r
Memphis	75/57/s	75/62/pc
Miami	84/77/t	82/76/r
Milwaukee	68/54/pc	67/54/s
Minneapolis	72/58/s	70/57/pc
Nashville	74/49/s	76/56/pc
New Orleans	76/67/r	73/68/t
New York City	69/55/s	72/55/s
Oklahoma City	72/51/s	72/55/s
Orlando	84/71/pc	83/72/c
Philadelphia	72/49/s	74/51/s
Phoenix	94/70/pc	76/52/pc
Pittsburgh	70/42/s	71/46/s
Portland, OR	53/37/r	49/36/pc
Sacramento	61/40/pc	61/40/pc
St. Louis	75/51/s	74/58/s
Salt Lake City	75/53/pc	67/38/pc
San Diego	72/61/pc	65/58/r
San Francisco	61/48/c	60/49/pc
Santa Fe	68/42/pc	64/41/c
Seattle	52/40/pc	48/36/pc
Tucson	92/70/pc	79/52/s
Washington, DC	74/49/s	74/53/s

Why Do I Hear... But Not Understand?

Study by Cambridge University in England Reveals Key Answer

Until recently, there was no practical way to identify dead regions of hearing cells in the ear. However, a new British-developed procedure using standard test equipment now allows for identification of dead hearing cell regions. The study suggests that the presence or absence of dead regions may have serious implications in the fitting of hearing aids. This research reveals that amplifying dead cells is a mistake which will result in poorer speech understanding in noise. A new type of digitally programmable microcircuit is now being released from Audibel - one of the world leaders in nanoScience technology - that can be programmed to bypass the dead

cells. As a result, the patient's usable hearing cells receive amplification, thereby improving speech understanding in noise. "We are employing a like method in our diagnostic sound booths using a sound field speech in noise procedure", said Chris Bisel of Bisel Hearing Aid Center. "This test simulates hearing in a noisy crowd. We are able to determine maximum speech understanding by frequency shaping this new hearing aid." The results have been phenomenal. These new products come in all shell sizes, including the smallest digital models, with low introductory prices available. During its release, Bisel Hearing Aid Center is offering this new frequency-shaping hearing instrument on a 30-day satisfaction trial. "Your satisfaction is absolutely guaranteed," Bisel said. If you hear, but are having trouble understanding conversation, take advantage of the complimentary demonstrations offered this week. **Call Bisel Hearing Aid Center today to schedule your no-obligation appointment.**

Hearing Evaluation

FREE

Find out what you're hearing and what you're not

Risk-Free Trial

Try our premium hearing technology for 30 days, risk-free.

See store for details

Hearing Aid Batteries

\$1 4-pack
Cash & Carry
#10, 13, 312, 675
Limit 4 per customer

Call today for your appointment! 713-979-5986

Chris Bisel, Owner

Bisel Hearing Aid Center
HELPING HOUSTON HEAR BETTER

4766 Beechnut Street, Houston, TX 77096

YES!
We're
open!

SPORTS

HOUSTON CHRONICLE • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020 • SECTION C

ROCKETS

New regime to keep ‘win now’ mentality

Silas’ attention to detail developed over lifetime of preparing for role

By Jonathan Feigen
STAFF WRITER

Calling himself “a win-now coach,” Stephen Silas on Thursday filled his Rockets introduction with ideas of how he will demonstrate that.

Along the way, Silas showed how he was — as Rockets CEO Tad Brown put it — “someone who really came in and blew us away in the interview process.”

Citing the influences of

coaches he has worked with — Don Nelson, Steve Clifford, Rick Carlisle and, most of all, his father Paul — and describing ways he will diversify the Rockets’ style and systems on both ends of the floor, Silas spoke of a wide variety of plans to take the team beyond where it has been in the James Harden era.

“That’s one of the things that makes this job so exciting: to have the roster that *Rockets continues on C5*



Chuck Burton / Associated Press

Stephen Silas has spent his life around basketball and takes the reins as a head coach for the first time.

Though front office has a fresh look, collaborative environment remains

Tilman Fertitta remains the owner, Tad Brown the CEO, James Harden the on-court face.

But the Rockets will not be the same next season. Not even close.

For the first time in 14 years, Daryl Morey will not be in charge of basketball operations. Morey resigned from the Rockets and has accepted a position with the Philadelphia 76ers.

The face of the analytics

JEROME SOLOMON
Commentary



movement in the NBA — and one of the league’s most innovative and popular general managers — *Solomon continues on C5*

VIVINT HOUSTON OPEN



Tim Warner / Contributor

Jordan Spieth was one of several golfers who struggled during the first round of the Vivint Houston Open on Thursday at the new layout of the Memorial Park Golf Course. Spieth, who trails leader Brandt Snedeker by eight shots, shot a 3-over 73, including a back-nine 40.

Revamp adds to challenge

New Memorial Park layout ‘hard course,’ earns players’ respect

By Richard Dean
CORRESPONDENT

Jordan Spieth couldn’t beat par Thursday in the opening round of the Vivint Houston Open, shooting a 3-over 73 with a back-nine 40. He was among a large group trying to stay afloat.

Blame the course. Blame the architect. Blame the player consultant whose input factored heavily in the redesign of a new version of a historic

Houston city municipal golf course.

“I think every time Jordan hit it in the water, he told me that was my fault. I’m sure every bad shot will be my fault, so I’ll take that,” said Brooks Koepka, a playing partner of Spieth’s on Thursday and the player consultant of the Memorial Park Golf Park redesign of architect Tom Doak and Renaissance Golf Design.

“It’s a fun golf course to play. I really like it. Having a hand in it is special, so you want to play well, but I hit it terrible today.”

Even with knowing the ins and outs of the course, Koepka went head-on with Memorial Park, shooting 2-over 72.

The PGA Tour event is being con-

Leader board

Player	R1	Par
Brandt Snedeker	65	-5
Cameron Davis	67	-3
Michael Thompson	67	-3
Scottie Scheffler	67	-3
Harold Varner III	67	-3
Carlos Ortiz	67	-3
Jason Day	67	-3

More coverage on Page C4

tested through Sunday in the heart of Houston. At the top of the leaderboard is Brandt Snedeker at 5 under, two shots clear of his nearest pursuers. There were no bogey-free rounds Thursday.

“I’ve been around for a couple of days, and a reaction of a lot of players is, ‘This is a hard golf course.’ I’m surprised they think it’s as hard as it is,” Doak said. “I’m curious to see if it pans out (that way).”

“I saw Brooks (Wednesday), and he’s like, ‘Nobody’s shooting 20 under, I promise.’ I would expect somebody by the weekend to shoot a really low number. They don’t know the golf course well yet.”

That only one player bettered 3 under over the par-70, 7,432-yard layout is surprising to Doak.

“When it gets to Sunday and you put a big prize out there, they’ll go at it a little harder,” he said.

Open continues on C4

TEXANS

3 linebackers on COVID reserve list

By Aaron Wilson
STAFF WRITER

Instead of practicing Thursday, Texans outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus was in mandatory isolation, away from his teammates, friends and family.

When linebacker Jacob Martin tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday night, the Texans shut down their training facility, canceled practice and held virtual meetings.

Because contact tracing data determined that Mercilus and linebacker Dylan Cole were close contacts to Martin, they joined him on

the reserve/COVID-19 list. Under NFL and NFLPA joint protocols, all three are ineligible to play in Sunday’s game at Jacksonville.

The Texans had no new positive tests and were cleared to return to their training facility for practice Friday, according to league sources not authorized to speak publicly.

“It’s a weird situation,” Mercilus said in a telephone interview Thursday afternoon. “I have not tested positive at all. I’m good. It’s just the situation. Nobody is immune to this. COVID has a way of creeping into the building, no matter what precautions you take.



Texans at Jaguars

When/Where: Noon Sunday; TIAA Bank Stadium, Jacksonville, Fla.

TV/radio: CBS; 610 AM, 100.3 FM, 101.3 FM (Spanish).

“Being in isolation, it sucks — and not being out there Sunday. All I can do is trust in God to get me through this. I’m pretty much at peace.”

The Texans are among a growing number of teams affected by COVID-19. *Texans continues on C2*



Brett Coomer / Staff photographer

Whitney Mercilus (59) and fellow Texans linebackers Jacob Martin and Dylan Cole won’t be on the field Sunday.

PRO FOOTBALL

Flexible defense makes up for missing parts

To see how the Texans might adjust their strategy to replace three linebackers in Sunday's game at Jacksonville, let's look at



JOHN MCCLAIN
On the Texans

who's available and how the defense performed in last month's 30-14 victory over the Jaguars at NRG Stadium.

It will be up to interim coach Romeo Crennel and defensive coordinator Anthony Weaver to tweak the game plan. They'll never admit it, but the Texans are fortunate to be playing the Jaguars when they are starting rookie quarterback Jake Luton, a sixth-round pick who'll be taking his first NFL snap.

Luton won't have to worry about outside linebackers Jacob Martin and Whitney Mercilus and inside linebacker Dylan Cole, who have been placed on the NFL's COVID-19 reserve list and will be unable to play.

Martin tested positive this week. The league's contact tracing protocol caused Mercilus and Cole also to be isolated and subject to daily testing until they're cleared to return.

Weaver shouldn't have too much trouble making adjustments, especially against a quarterback who hasn't played since the 2019 season at Oregon State.

Mercilus, who's tied with J.J. Watt for the team lead with three sacks, is the only missing linebacker who starts. He had one of his three sacks and a fumble recovery in the victory over the Jaguars and quarterback Gardner Minshew II, who's



Brett Coomer / Staff photographer

The Texans' defense will have to reshuffle before the team's rematch against the Jaguars because three linebackers are on the COVID-19 reserve list and unavailable for Sunday's game.

out with torn ligaments in his thumb.

Martin, who comes off the bench, had one of his two sacks against Jacksonville. Cole will have to be replaced on special teams.

"It's never easy when you lose your top guys, and these are some top guys on defense," Crennel said. "One of the things I always talk to the players about is how important their roles are, and they have to be ready to step up and play when called on."

"I always tell them if you're in the game when the ball is snapped, you're a starter, and you're expected to react and respond as a starter. Hopefully, they've been in their playbooks (and) they've been taking advantage of their reps they get on the practice field. When they get an opportunity to go into the

game, it can be a positive outcome for them and for us."

In the first game against the Jaguars, the Texans played their best run defense since the first half of last season. They limited Jacksonville to 75 yards rushing on 20 carries. Minshew threw for 301 yards and two touchdowns without an interception.

Since that victory over Jacksonville, Weaver has started four defensive linemen in losses to Tennessee and Green Bay. The idea was to beef up the run defense with Watt and Carlos Watkins at end and P.J. Hall and Brandon Dunn at tackle.

That strategy didn't work in the 42-36 overtime loss to the Titans, who ran for 263 yards. It did work against the Packers, who played without leading rusher Aaron Jones and finished with 96 yards rushing in their 35-20 victory.

In the last three games, only once has a defensive player other than Watt played on more than 63 percent of the snaps, and that was Mercilus (67 percent) against the Jaguars.

Weaver plays six linemen, including Charles Omenihu and Ross Blacklock off the bench.

"We have flexibility in what we do with our defense and what we can do," Crennel said. "A lot of it depends on the scheme and how guys fit into the scheme and how they produce within the scheme."

Crennel didn't want to disclose any strategy when he was asked about using four linemen more, considering Mercilus and Martin are unavailable.

"If they can rush the passer, yes, we've played them more," he said. "I think how many linemen we play might depend on how many linebackers we have available and how the linebackers perform."

"If the four linemen perform better than the linebackers, then you put the linemen in and let them play. But if the linebackers bring more to the table than some of the linemen, then you need the linebackers in the game."

Weaver plays a lot of players based on how he wants to attack an offense. If somebody's hot, like a lineman rushing the passer, he'll get more playing time. There are a lot of passing situations in which he uses three linemen, two linebackers and six defensive backs.

Because coaches always have to be prepared for injuries, they're forced to call audibles on the roster and strategy.

"One of the good things about

the NFL this year is they allow more guys on the practice squad (16)," Crennel said. "They allow you to move up a guy from the practice squad to play in a game, and then he can go back down to the practice squad after the game."

No matter who replaces Mercilus and Martin, or what game plan Weaver has prepared, the Texans are playing against a quarterback who hasn't appeared on tape since his college career.

Defensive players have to fear the unknown. Denver's Drew Lock made his first start as a rookie against the Texans in 2019 and carved up the defense in embarrassing fashion in the Broncos' upset victory.

"I think when you talk about a young quarterback, sometimes they (defensive players) can get overconfident and think the young quarterback doesn't know anything and can't do anything," Crennel said. "When you get overconfident, then you get burned. You give up a touchdown, and then you say, 'Wow, that guy was better than I thought he was.' I don't want that to happen."

Crennel doesn't want a repeat of Lock's 309-yard performance at NRG Stadium.

"I want them to understand this guy is a professional football player," Crennel said. "If he didn't have ability, he wouldn't be there. We've got to treat him just like he's the best guy in the world. He is the best in the world, because he's going against us (Sunday)."

john.mcclain@chron.com
twitter.com/mcclain_on_nfl

Texans' Reid is 'really hungry' for first pick

By Aaron Wilson
STAFF WRITER

Justin Reid understands quarterbacks' intentions and how to anticipate receivers' routes as he patrols the secondary.

Although the Texans safety has provided a ball-hawking presence in the past, that hasn't been the story this season.

After establishing ambitious goals before the season, aiming for a championship and All-Pro honors, Reid has endured a lot of frustration and losing. While Reid isn't discouraged, he's realistic about where the 1-6 Texans stand and how he's performed individually.

Reid has yet to intercept a pass after totaling five interceptions in his first two NFL seasons. He has 44 tackles but has also missed six tackles. He has allowed 17 completions for 120 yards on 21 targets in pass coverage and has a 62.4 overall Pro Football Focus grade.

Between the dismal record and a decline in production, Reid is seeking a much better second half of the season.

"We all want to do more," Reid said. "We all want to win games. Specifically, looking at myself, I think I could do a better job tackling. There's a couple plays that are out there that I wish I could have back. But I can't take them back, can only move forward and make sure that I make those plays the next time around."

Despite a painful torn labrum last year that required offseason surgery, Reid still recorded 78 tackles, including 1½ for losses, two interceptions and a fumble recovery while playing in all but one game. He did so despite having his shoulder examined repeatedly by trainers after trudging off the field and then popping back into the game.

Playing under a four-year, \$4.063 million rookie contract that includes an \$849,957 base salary this year, Reid will be eligible to sign an extension after his third NFL season.

His focus is on intercepting passes. His last interception was in December of last season against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers when he picked off Jameis Winston in a road victory.

Bradley Roby has the Texans' only interception of the season.

"Really hungry," Reid said when asked about the lack of interceptions. "I think that's going to start with stopping the run, though. Teams aren't going to feel the need to throw the ball if they feel like they can take the safe option of running all day. So things kind of take care of themselves."

"You stop the run, you force them in third-and-long situations. Now they have to throw less high-potential passes. Higher probabilities for picks, interceptions and make plays like that, so it all feeds into itself."

Reid picked off three passes as



Jon Shapley / Staff photographer

Justin Reid (20) has 44 tackles but has yet to record an interception after picking off five passes in his first two years.

a rookie after being drafted in the third round out of Stanford, so he's proven capable of disrupting passing lanes.

"I think that everybody wants to get interceptions and make plays and things like that, but they don't come to everybody at the same time, so make the plays that you're supposed to make," Texans interim coach Romeo Crennel said. "Do your job first, and then you can help out. If that leads to more interceptions, great. If it leads to more tackles, great."

"Maybe doesn't lead to anything on a particular game because maybe they're not throwing your way, and you've got to ac-

cept that. Rather than trying to make a play and give up yardage, do your job and then help out. I'm not saying that he's not doing his job, because he's a good player and he does a good job, but you have to control that mentality."

There could be increased opportunities Sunday against Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Jake Luton, a rookie sixth-round draft pick from Oregon State who's starting his first NFL game.

"It's a little bit tough because there's no active film on him," Reid said. "You can look at a little bit of college tape, but he's going to be a little bit different than he was in college. There's a couple of

things that you can rely on about any player getting ready to play their first game. You know on their side they're going to be coaching him to stick to the fundamentals.

"It's going to be interesting. We're going to play the first quarter straight, really kind of see whatever quarterback they're putting in the game, see if we can catch on any tendencies, see if he's doing what typically first-game quarterbacks do, like stare down their targets or anything like that."

Reid emphasized that he and his teammates aren't giving up on the season. Losing can become a habit, and the Texans don't want to give into that kind of discouraged mentality.

"We still feel like there's a chance to turn the season around," Reid said. "But regardless, we have a warrior spirit. Especially myself personally, I'm extremely prideful. I'm extremely competitive. I want to go out and play well each and every game."

"If anything, this is still building the core and the mentality of this team and setting the new standard of what we want the culture for this team to be like for the next decade. That's what we're still playing for: to get this thing right for the long-term goals as well."

aaron.wilson@chron.com
twitter.com/aaronwilson_nfl

TEXANS

From page C1

ing number of NFL teams dealing with an active COVID-19 situation, including Chicago, Kansas City, Indianapolis, San Francisco, Green Bay, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Detroit, Dallas, Denver and Arizona.

Martin has self-isolated, and contact tracing and testing are ongoing.

"After the NFL did their contact tracing, they found that Whitney Mercilus and Dylan Cole had been in close contact with Jacob and thought they were at risk. And potentially at risk for maybe, if not having it, passing it on to other team members," Texans interim coach Romeo Crennel said. "Hopefully, there will be no other positives that will impact anybody else on the team. My message to the players is it's an unfortunate thing that's happened that we have to lose these players for this game, but they're part of our family, and we're going to support them, and then the other guys have to be ready to step up."

The final decision on whether the Texas will be allowed to prac-

tice Friday is in the hands of the NFL in consultation with Dr. Allen Sills, its chief medical officer, and other league officials. It's considered unlikely the NFL would postpone Sunday's game.

"I think that the league wants to play the game if possible," Crennel said. "So they will wait until (Friday) at least, I believe, before making a decision. At the latest, it will be Saturday because that's when we travel. Our bye week is passed, and there might not be space to re-schedule. So it's kind of up in the air."

"I hope to have a practice. If everybody is negative, like it looks like it is right now, then I think that they might let us back into the building to get practice in so that we can feel better about playing on Sunday."

During the open week, guard Max Scharping tested positive for COVID-19, and the Texans entered the league's intensive protocol. The first Texans player to test positive since the start of training camp, Scharping was placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list and remains there.

Crennel emphasized that Martin and Scharping aren't experiencing severe symptoms.

Thursday's injury report

TEXANS

Did not participate

Kyle Emanuel, LB	Concussion
------------------	------------

Full participation

Jordan Akins, TE	Ankle/Concussion
Randall Cobb, WR	Illness
Peter Kalambay, ILB	Hamstring
Bradley Roby, CB	Knee

"Max is feeling well. He has no major symptoms or anything like that," Crennel said. "Jacob, he was just discovered, and he has no major symptoms. Max is into his 10-day isolation that's mandatory. Jacob will start his. I think that they both will be OK and will be able to be back with us. The only thing that changes that is if their symptoms get worse for whatever reason."

"So hopefully, these guys will be back, and I'm planning on them being back. We can't do anything about them getting back until after they go through the protocol."

Multiple Texans players tested positive over the summer prior to training camp. The Texans had false positive tests for COVID-19 prior to a game at Pittsburgh. The

JAGUARS

Did not participate

Dakota Allen, ILB	Ankle
Gardner Minshew II, QB	Right thumb
Devine Ozigbo, RB	Hamstring
Josiah Scott, CB	Not injury related
Brandon Watson, S	Hamstring

Limited participation

A.J. Cann, OL	Shoulder
Brandon Linder, OL	Hip
Myles Jack, LB	Ankle
Sidney Jones IV, CB	Ribs
Jarrod Wilson, S	Hamstring

Full participation

Tyler Eifert, TE	Scheduled day off/neck
------------------	------------------------

players retested and were cleared to play before kickoff.

In conjunction with team officials, including interim general manager Jack Easterby and infection control officer Geoff Kaplan, Texans chairman Cal McNair instituted several facility upgrades that include medical-grade cleaning standards and touchless door technology.

"I thought our guys have done a really good job since the start of this pandemic and the protocols

that have been put in place by the league," Crennel said. "Now what I notice is, as the medical experts have said, as the weather gets colder, there's going to be more cases. That seems to be the case in the NFL, because there's several other teams that are going through the same thing that we're going through now this week."

"I'm concerned about what happens going forward, particularly if a large number on your team have come in close contact with somebody or you have more than one positive case. That's an unknown, and we will adjust and adapt as we need to."

It's all part of the most unusual season in NFL history as the league attempts to stage its season during a global health crisis.

"The league is doing its best to put measures in place," Mercilus said. "Cal McNair and the Texans have done an exceptional job of getting the building prepared with preventative measures, contact tracing and things of that nature. All you can do is pray for the best and hope everybody maintains and stays as safe as possible."

aaron.wilson@chron.com
twitter.com/aaronwilson_nfl

PRO FOOTBALL

A decade later, Gilbert eyes another chance

MIKE FINGER
Commentary



SAN ANTONIO – Garrett Gilbert was about to become a folk hero.

For the rest of his life, strangers would pat him on the shoulder, buy him a drink, ask for a picture. They’d point him out to their kids and whisper in hushed tones about the day he came off the bench and pulled off the unthinkable, bringing new and improbable glory to one of the most popular football teams in the world.

Garrett was three minutes away from that, anyway. And it’s taken him more than a decade to get a crack at a less dramatic version of it.

In a room beneath the Rose Bowl grandstands in January 2010, Gilbert was sure he wouldn’t need that long. On the night he relieved injured Texas star Colt McCoy and rallied the Longhorns to the brink of a national title before fumbling the ball to Alabama on what was setting up as a game-winning drive, the then-freshman quarterback made a prediction.

“It was a humbling experience and one that will stick with me ... in a positive way,” Gilbert said.

Perhaps some of it did, but what happened next in his career didn’t show it. Overwhelmed by the task of leading a Texas team that that wasn’t nearly as good or as motivated as the one that almost beat Alabama, Gilbert struggled as his confidence plummeted.

In the fall of 2010, the Longhorns endured their first losing season in 13 years, and a month into his junior season he lost his starting job and decided to transfer. Once the national high school player of the year at Austin Lake Travis and the presumed heir to the legacy of Vince Young and McCoy, he wound up at SMU, a long way from



Elsa / Getty Images

Garrett Gilbert almost led UT to the 2010 national title. He transferred to SMU after losing the starting job and has been an NFL journeyman who could make his first career start Sunday with the Cowboys.

folk-hero status.

This Sunday, though, the kid who couldn’t bring back Texas might have a chance to become the grown man who salvages a season for the Dallas Cowboys. The stakes won’t be quite as high this time – his new team is a long way from a winning record, let alone a championship – but for Gilbert, the glare might feel a bit familiar.

In some ways, the Cowboys are the NFL’s version

of the Longhorns, with their proud history and penchant for making everybody else revel in their current run of misery. Once again, an injury to a record-setting passer (this time Dak Prescott) has thrust Gilbert into a situation in which his first significant action at his current level comes against an undefeated opponent (this time the Steelers).

As of Thursday, Dallas coach Mike McCarthy

wasn’t sure if he will start Gilbert (who has attempted a grand total of six NFL passes) or Cooper Rush (who’s attempted three) against Pittsburgh on Sunday.

But if it’s Gilbert, it would be quite a story, as it gives him his grandest showcase since that night at the Rose Bowl.

UT fans remember the details. Gilbert had received only sparing mop-up duty until then, but he

was forced into action for the second-ranked Longhorns after McCoy hurt his shoulder early in the first quarter.

It didn’t start out well. Gilbert misfired on nine of his first 10 throws, including an ill-advised shovel pass that was intercepted by Marcell Dareus for a touchdown that gave the top-ranked Crimson Tide a 24-6 lead.

But after halftime, Gilbert settled down and

showed why he’d been one of the nation’s top recruits. On back-to-back scoring drives, Gilbert completed nine of 11 passes for 121 yards and two touchdowns. When the Longhorns took possession deep in their own territory with 3:08 left, they trailed 24-21.

A field goal would force overtime. A third consecutive touchdown drive would win it, and the rest of Gilbert’s life would’ve been filled with those smiles and shoulder pats and free drinks.

He never saw Eryk Anders coming, though. The Alabama linebacker came untouched on a blitz and pummeled Gilbert’s blind side, jarring the ball loose. Alabama added two more touchdowns, and a dynasty was born.

Gilbert never enjoyed the same mystique again. After leaving Texas, he played well enough at SMU to draw attention from NFL scouts who never stopped noticing his strong right arm. The Rams selected him in the sixth round of the 2014 draft but released him months later.

He won a Super Bowl ring with the Patriots without rising above the practice squad and finally got into the waning minutes of a few NFL games with Carolina and Cleveland in 2018 and 2019.

Sunday’s start, if he gets it, will come only because the Cowboys have endured a disastrous run of quarterback news. First Prescott was lost for the season with a broken ankle, then Andy Dalton suffered a concussion (and went on the COVID-19 list), then rookie Ben DiNucci proved he clearly wasn’t ready last week at Philadelphia.

So more than 10 years after his first big chance, Gilbert might get another. And if this time he finishes what he couldn’t in those last three minutes against Alabama?

Maybe he’ll never be a folk hero. But maybe he’ll feel a little better about having this experience stick with him.

mfinger@express-news.net
twitter.com/mikefinger

PACKERS 34, 49ERS 17

Rodgers’ 4 TD passes power Green Bay

By Josh Dubow
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARA, Calif. – Aaron Rodgers barely recognized this version of the San Francisco 49ers from the team that dominated Green Bay twice last season. But that doesn’t mean he was going to let up one bit.

Rodgers threw for 305 yards and four touchdowns and the Green Bay Packers overwhelmed the undermanned 49ers 34-17 on Thursday night at Levi’s Stadium.

“It was a different game,” Rodgers said. “They’re obviously depleted on both sides of the ball. They’ve had probably one of the worst injury years I’ve seen in a long time, so it’s not the same football team we saw twice last year, but they still have possibly the best middle linebacker in the game and a lot of pride. We went out and executed the way we expected to.”

Rodgers connected on deep shots to Davante Adams and Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and a short toss to Mercedes Lewis in the first half to get the Packers (6-2) out to a 21-3 lead over the Niners (4-5).

It was quite a reversal from the two meetings last season when San Francisco outscored Green Bay by a combined 50-0 in the first halves on the way to lopsided wins in the regular season and NFC title game.

The rematch looked nothing like those games in part because the Niners were missing almost all their key pieces from the

Packers 34, 49ers 17					
Green Bay	7	14	10	3	34
San Francisco	3	0	0	14	17
First quarter					
GB: D.Adams 36 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 11:42.					
SF: FG Gould 22, :47.					
Second quarter					
GB: Lewis 1 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 7:01.					
GB: Valdes-Scantling 52 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 1:53.					
Third quarter					
GB: Valdes-Scantling 1 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 7:17.					
GB: FG Crosby 19, 2:01.					
Fourth quarter					
GB: FG Crosby 53, 6:15.					
SF: James 41 pass from Mullens (Gould kick), 5:00.					
SF: McKinnon 1 run (Gould kick), :04.					
A: 0.					
	GB	SF			
First downs	21	17			
Total Net Yards	405	337			
Rushes-Yards	31-111	17-55			
Passing	294	282			
Punt Returns	0-0	1-13			
Kickoff Returns	1-5	6-135			
Interceptions Ret.	1-17	0-0			
Comp-Att-Int	25-31-0	22-35-1			
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-11	1-9			
Punts	3-51.3	4-54.8			
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1			
Penalties-Yards	5-45	4-33			
Time of Possession	36:30	23:30			
Individual statistics					
Rushing: Green Bay, Jones 15-58, Ervin 8-24, Taylor 1-9, Williams 2-8, Rodgers 1-7, Lovett 3-6, Boyle 1 (minus 1), San Francisco, McKinnon 12-52, Hasty 4-3, Mullens 1-0.					
Passing: Green Bay, Rodgers 25-31-0-305, San Francisco, Mullens 22-35-1-291.					
Receiving: Green Bay, D.Adams 10-173, Jones 5-21, Ervin 4-48, Valdes-Scantling 2-53, Tonyan 1-5, Shepherd 1-3, Lewis 1-1, Stemberger 1-1, San Francisco, James 9-184, Dweilley 3-52, McKinnon 3-16, Carract 2-13, Hasty 2-10, T.Taylor 1-9, Jurszczyk 1-4, Reed 1-3.					
Missed field goals: None.					

game because of injuries and a positive coronavirus test for receiver Kendrick Bourne that also sidelined three of his teammates for “high risk” contacts.

That left San Francisco without quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (ankle), All-Pro tight end George Kittle (foot), NFC title game star running back Raheem Mostert (ankle), receivers Deebo Samuel (hamstring) and Brandon Aiyuk (COVID-19 list), left tackle Trent Williams (COVID-19 list) and key defenders Nick Bosa (knee), Dee Ford (back) and Richard Sherman (calf).

“We knew it was going to be a challenge,” 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said.

NFL AT A GLANCE

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Indianapolis	5	2	0	.714	198	136	3-0-0	2-2-0	2-2-0	3-0-0	0-1-0
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	208	184	3-1-0	2-1-0	4-2-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Houston	1	6	0	.143	166	217	1-3-0	0-3-0	1-4-0	0-2-0	1-1-0
Jacksonville	1	6	0	.143	154	220	1-2-0	0-4-0	1-5-0	0-1-0	1-2-0
North											
Pittsburgh	7	0	0	1.000	211	142	4-0-0	3-0-0	5-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	203	132	2-2-0	3-0-0	3-2-0	2-0-0	2-1-0
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	206	237	3-1-0	2-2-0	3-3-0	2-0-0	2-2-0
Cincinnati	2	5	1	.313	194	214	2-2-0	0-3-1	2-5-0	0-0-1	0-3-0
West											
Kansas City	7	1	0	.875	253	152	3-1-0	4-0-0	7-1-0	0-0-0	2-1-0
Las Vegas	4	3	0	.571	187	203	1-2-0	3-1-0	2-2-0	2-1-0	1-0-0
Denver	3	4	0	.429	147	183	1-3-0	2-1-0	3-3-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
L.A. Chargers	2	5	0	.286	179	185	1-2-0	1-3-0	2-2-0	0-3-0	0-2-0
East											
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	198	199	3-1-0	3-1-0	5-2-0	1-0-0	4-0-0
Miami	4	3	0	.571	188	133	2-1-0	3-1-0	2-2-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
New England	2	5	0	.286	136	167	2-2-0	0-3-0	2-3-0	0-2-0	1-1-0
N.Y. Jets	0	8	0	.000	94	238	0-4-0	0-4-0	0-6-0	0-2-0	0-3-0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Tampa Bay	6	2	0	.750	247	165	3-0-0	3-2-0	3-0-0	3-2-0	1-1-0
New Orleans	5	2	0	.714	206	197	3-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	4-1-0	2-0-0
Carolina	3	5	0	.375	179	193	1-3-0	2-2-0	1-1-0	2-4-0	1-3-0
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	209	224	0-4-0	2-2-0	0-0-0	2-6-0	1-1-0
North											
Green Bay	6	2	0	.750	253	204	2-1-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	5-2-0	2-1-0
Chicago	5	3	0	.625	161	166	2-2-0	3-1-0	0-1-0	5-2-0	1-0-0
Detroit	3	4	0	.429	177	206	0-3-0	3-1-0	1-1-0	2-3-0	0-2-0
Minnesota	2	5	0	.286	183	214	0-3-0	2-2-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	1-1-0
West											
Seattle	6	1	0	.857	240	199	4-0-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	4-1-0	1-1-0
Arizona	5	2	0	.714	203	146	2-1-0	3-1-0	1-0-0	4-2-0	2-0-0
L.A. Rams	5	3	0	.625	193	152	3-0-0	2-3-0	0-2-0	5-1-0	0-1-0
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	225	207	1-4-0	3-1-0	2-1-0	2-4-0	1-2-0
East											
Philadelphia	3	4	1	.438	186	205	2-2-1	1-2-0	0-2-1	3-2-0	2-1-0
Washington	2	5	0	.286	133	165	2-2-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	2-3-0	2-1-0
Dallas	2	6	0	.250	185	266	2-2-0	0-4-0	0-1-0	2-5-0	1-2-0
N.Y. Giants	1	7	0	.125	145	199	1-3-0	0-4-0	0-1-0	1-6-0	1-2-0

Week 9 result/schedule

Thursday's result					
Green Bay 34, San Francisco 17					
Sunday's games	Time	Open. line	Cur. line	O/U	TV
Houston at Jacksonville	noon	Hou. 6½	Hou. 7	50½	CBS
Baltimore at Indianapolis	noon	Bal. 3	Bal. 1½	47½	
Carolina at Kansas City	noon	K.C. 12	K.C. 10½	52½	
Chicago at Tennessee	noon	Ten. 6	Ten. 6	46½	
Denver at Atlanta	noon	Atl. 4	Atl. 4	50	
Detroit at Minnesota	noon	Min. 3	Min. 4	51½	
N.Y. Giants at Washington	noon	Was. 3½	Was. 2½	42½	
Seattle at Buffalo	noon	Sea. 3	Sea. 3	55	
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers	3:05 p.m.	L.A. 1½	PK	51½	Fox
Miami at Arizona	3:25 p.m.	Ari. 5	Ari. 4½	48½	
Pittsburgh at Dallas	3:25 p.m.	Pit. 13½	Pit. 14	42	CBS
New Orleans at Tampa Bay	7:20 p.m.	T.B. 5½	T.B. 5	50½	NBC
Monday's game	Time	Open. line	Cur. line	O/U	TV
New England at N.Y. Jets	7:15 p.m.	N.E. 7½	N.E. 7	42	ESPN

Idle: Cincinnati, Cleveland, L.A. Rams, Philadelphia

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

Players’ union approves start on Dec. 22

By Jonathan Feigen
STAFF WRITER

The votes are in. The National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) has tentatively approved a start date of December 22, 2020 for the 2020-21 NBA season and a 72-game schedule,” the players union announced in a statement. “Additional details remain to be negotiated and the NBPA is confident that the parties will reach agreement on these remaining issues relevant to the upcoming season.”

Talks will need to continue to reach an agreement on an amended collective bargaining agreement, salary cap and luxury tax, along with the portion of players’

salaries to be withheld to meet the split of basketball related income. There also will need to be agreements on COVID-19 testing and protocols.

After Thursday’s vote, however, there is a general expectation that the remaining negotiation hurdles would be cleared by early next week.

The NBA draft is scheduled for Nov. 18 with free agency expected to open just days later and training camps to begin Dec. 1. The moratorium on trades likely will be lifted in the days before the draft.

With just 71 days between the end of the 2019-20 and proposed

start of the 2020-21 season, the NBA would have the shortest turnaround between seasons ever in NBA, MLB, NFL or NHL history. But the eight teams that were not involved in competition in the league’s Florida bubble have not played since March.

The NBA board of governors strongly preferred a late December start to boost television, sponsorship and limited ticket sales revenue in markets where permitted, as opposed to the Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day start players had proposed. The league also wanted to begin moving toward its traditional schedule while avoiding

competing for attention and television advertising dollars with the Olympics.

The league weighed pushing back the start of the season when there had been greater optimism about playing games with more fans in attendance. But with that unlikely until well into next season in most markets, the benefits of the December start, even with the rapid turnaround since last season, became the priority. With the players on board, it moved Thursday to likely.

jonathan.feigen@chron.com
twitter.com/jonathan_feigen

ROCKETS

Stone, Silas aiming to build versatile roster

By Jonathan Feigen
STAFF WRITER

The greatest change, Rockets general manager Rafael Stone said only semi-facetiously, is that when he drives to work in the morning, Daryl Morey is no longer sitting in his passenger seat.

After so many years as a right-hand man for Morey in the conference rooms and left hand on their commute to Toyota Center, Stone said the aggressive mentality that marked Morey’s 13 years as general manager will not change. Neither will the championship aspirations that he said come with building a team around James Harden.

“We’re going to continue to be extraordinarily aggressive,” Stone said in the Thursday news conference introducing Stephen Silas as coach. “We’re going to shoot for it. Whether we get there or not, I don’t know, but I can guarantee you we’re going to shoot for it, and I’m really, really looking forward to it.”

“We still have James Harden. Our goal is still to win a championship. And if you’ve got him, you know you’re halfway there. It’s incumbent on me, Stephen and the whole team to figure out the rest of the whole. But the key piece is there.”



P.J. Tucker (17) served as the Rockets’ center after they decided to employ a small-ball strategy last season, but new GM Rafael Stone said he would pursue a more traditional big man.

The Rockets have no picks in the Nov. 18 draft and are over the salary cap as they head to free agency, expected to begin days later. But Stone said he expects to add a few players to the returning core, and he and Silas strongly suggested they will seek a more traditional center.

“We’re definitely not going into this offseason saying, ‘You know, we don’t want anyone over 6-7,’ ” Stone said. “We want really good basketball players. We’re

definitely not wedded to anything. One of the things that Stephen and I have talked about a lot is the ability to throw different things at different teams. I would anticipate that we’ll probably ... provide Stephen with a little bit more optionality in terms of being able to go big or go small.”

Silas indicated he would be all for that. Though he has no objection to using small lineups and cited his time working with one of the small-ball innovators, Hall

of Fame coach Don Nelson, Silas spoke of the benefits of having the traditional option.

“In today’s NBA, you cannot play just one way,” Silas said. “You have to have multiple ways of playing. Small ball can be part of it, but also having a bigger guy, a traditional-type center where you can roll to the rim or duck in or do some different things to where the matchups will be a little better.”

“On the offensive end, being a little bit less predictable I would say is what I’m looking to do. And then on the defensive end, the same thing, being a little less predictable as far as so much switching and get into maybe play a little bit of zone. I want to be the team you have to spend a day preparing to play the Houston Rockets.”

Stone pushed back on the assumption he will be instructed to keep the Rockets’ payroll under the luxury tax or that he and Morey had ever been directed by owner Tilman Fertitta to make deals with that in mind. He did say avoiding the luxury tax has been important to maintaining flexibility to make deals not permissible when designated a “repeater” tax team.

“This entire time, I’ve been in on every conversation that’s

been had between Tillman and Daryl or Tilman and Tad (Brown, the Rockets CEO),” Stone said. “Tilman has never once said that he’s not willing to spend if spending results in winning. So, you know, that’s consistent. And, you know, he reiterated to me ... what his priorities were. They’re winning first, second and ad nauseum. And money, not so much.”

Still, there was an introductory press conference because there was new leadership to introduce. More than Stone’s carpool had changed, even if much, he said, will remain the same.

“I feel like we’ve built something really, really special in the last 15 years,” Stone said. “Tad and I worked super closely together, and it’s awesome that I’m still going to have him to lean on. And just the entire team that’s here – Eli (Witus), Jimmy (Paulis), Ed (Pinckney) – we built this really, really cool thing.”

“We have this immensely talented roster. The goal is to bring in another guy or two who can really complement these guys. There are a variety of mechanisms we can use to do it. And we’ll be just incredibly aggressive about making that happen.”

jonathan.feigen@chron.com
twitter.com/jonathan_feigen

ROCKETS

From page C1

has been put together here, to have two future Hall of Famers and All-Stars and MVPs (Harden and Russell Westbrook),” Silas said. “For me, it being my first head coaching experience and being in a win-now situation, that’s great. I’m a win-now coach. So to not have to deal with growing ... to think championship right away, it’s exciting to me, and I’m prepared for it, and I’m ready for it.”

The topic of preparation came up often. General manager Rafael Stone, in his first public comments since he was named Daryl Morey’s successor, described Silas as “the most prepared guy we talked to” in the interview process. Jeff Van Gundy, long known for his extensive preparations, and John Lucas, the Rockets’ director of player development who was elevated Thursday to Silas’ lead assistant, also were finalists. But Stone said Silas shined as “very clearly the best fit for us.”

“We spoke to really, really smart, qualified guys,” Stone said. “The people that we sat down with all did a great job. Stephen’s level of preparedness, his ability to have

thought through everything we threw at him, and then his unique mind – some of his answers were really, really interesting.”

When Silas spoke of how he earns players’ trust, he cited that level of planning.

“For me,” Silas said, “it’s very important that I’m overly prepared and the work part is done and constant. And then making sure that they know that I can get them where they need to go as far as their individual game, their team game and melding those things together to where we can win the championship.”

That process, he said, has begun via talks with his players, beginning with a Zoom call the Rockets arranged even before he landed the position. That was an essential final step to getting the job and is now a part of doing it.

“It was definitely helpful as far as ... knowing we are on the same page,” Silas said of the players’ involvement in the process. “If they had hired me and I hadn’t spoken to those guys, there would have been some question in my head as far as how they felt about it. But having them part of the interview process made me feel more at ease as far as this situation and relating to those guys.”

“I’m not going to take away what they did well as a group; I’m going to add to it and enhance it.”

Rockets coach Stephen Silas

Silas said he does not plan to make many changes to an offense that worked. He did, however, cite things the Rockets will do differently beyond roster adjustments he and Stone said they hope to make in the interest of having a traditional center option. Silas said he would add “triggers” and “actions” to make it more difficult to trap his stars and game-plan to face his team.

“What I will do is try to make it a little bit easier on those guys, put in a few little actions that’ll make the defense have to make decisions and make them a little bit harder to guard, be a little bit more versatile on the offensive end,” Silas said. “Let those guys play to their strengths but make tweaks ... so we can make that jump from being the sixth-best offensive team to first-, second-best offensive team.”

“Hopefully ... letting those guys pass ahead and attack defenses before they’re set. Getting defenses on the move early in possessions and keeping them on the move. Not so much kind of stand around,

iso-type stuff, even though ... there will be times for that because that’s what they do well. I’m not going to take away what they did well as a group; I’m just going to add to it and enhance it.”

Silas said he told Westbrook and Harden that preparing to play against them over the years had been “a nightmare.” He cited his history working with star guards Stephen Curry, Kemba Walker, Baron Davis and, most recently, Luka Doncic when Silas was Dallas’ “offensive coordinator” and helped the Mavericks build the best offensive rating in NBA history.

“In order for us to win a championship, and I told those guys ... it’s up to me to make sure that I can figure out ways for them to use their greatness and not need to feel like they need to do more,” Silas said.

Silas began his coaching career at age 27 on his father’s staff in Charlotte but said his training started long before in the years he watched his father play, wrapping

up his career with the Celtics, Nuggets and SuperSonics. That made the day he could tell his father he got the job especially joyous.

“It was amazing,” Silas said. “It was the best feeling in the world. The gratification of that phone call was immense. He was super excited. My mom was so excited. My wife (Keryl) and kids (Kyler Elyse and Kaelyn) were jumping up and down in the house.”

The wait, after Silas was a finalist for the Rockets’ position in 2016, might have made the occasion even happier. But Silas said has long worked toward this day, from a lifetime learning from his father through his recent years with Carlisle.

“I’ve been preparing for this all my life,” Silas said. “It hasn’t just been 20 years of coaching; it’s been being in locker rooms for years when I was little. My dad coached with Chuck Daly and Pat Riley. I was there and watching film with my dad. All the people that I met and the things that I’ve learned over the years – that’s what makes me ready for this position.”

jonathan.feigen@chron.com
twitter.com/jonathan_feigen

SOLOMON

From page C1

Morey put together a competitive team year after year despite the challenges.

From Tracy McGrady to Harden, Yao Ming to P.J. Tucker, Rafer Alston to Russell Westbrook, Jeremy Lin to Chris Paul, Kyle Lowry to Eric Gordon and so on, Trader Daryl went for it, remaking the roster whenever it wasn’t good enough in a tireless search for a championship combination.

Ultimately, the Morey Era ended without a title, but it wasn’t for lack of trying. In the NBA, not trying for a year or two has been key to many a title contender’s success.

New GM Rafael Stone was introduced by the team Thursday – well, introduced is a bit strong, considering Stone has been with the organization for 15 years – and he said not trying

will not be part of the game plan going forward.

In fact, if you like how Morey conducted business, you won’t see many significant changes.

“This is a place that I feel like we’ve built something really, really special over the last 15 years,” Stone said. “Collectively, we’ve really impacted the game and the way it’s played, and we’ve been really, really aggressive as a group. And we’re going to continue to be extraordinarily aggressive.”

“We’re gonna shoot for it. Whether we get there or not, I don’t know, but I can guarantee you we’re gonna shoot for it.”

That should calm the fears of Rockets faithful, who somehow thought the first move of the new general manager would be to tear everything down and start from scratch.

Stone was part of the build-up. He isn’t inheriting a roster of players with whom he has no connection or a coach who was

handed to him.

He was a key part of the hiring committee that selected Stephen Silas as the new head coach. And he played an integral role in almost every major trade the franchise has made since he became general counsel.

Stone described himself as a “deal guy.”

“For the last eight years or so, our goal has been to win a championship because we have James Harden,” Stone said. “We still have James Harden. If you’ve got him, you’re halfway there.”

“It’s incumbent on me and Stephen and the whole team to figure out the rest of the whole, but the key piece is there.”

Despite not achieving ultimate success with a championship, the Rockets were one of the league’s smartest franchises under Morey.

“We’ve all had a very collaborative environment,” Brown said. “The whole crew is still

there, doing the same work, the decision-making process, and the way that it’s brought up into the executive decision process is really gonna be the same.”

Without question, Morey’s vision and willingness to go against the established grain of the NBA has been at the forefront of the Rockets’ operation since he took over as GM in 2007 after serving one season as an assistant.

Morey fostered an atmosphere in which subordinates were encouraged, if not required, to contribute ideas and perspectives that challenged his thoughts.

That five of his former assistants are top executives with other NBA teams is a strong indicator that he was secure enough to hire the best.

Generally, Morey was a “best way,” not “my way,” type of leader.

None of the hundreds of decisions made under Morey’s watch

was done in a vacuum. Stone and new assistant GM Eli Witus have negotiated deals, worked trades and come up with innovative ideas to pull off moves.

“We have the same core group,” Stone said. “I think sometimes people thought a single person would go into a closet and emerge with this new idea, and that’s never the way we worked.”

“We bounce ideas off each other. Somebody comes up with an idea, and everybody tells him all the bad things about it. He argues, and if he coverts some people, now, all of a sudden, we’re doing it.”

“Everyone’s talking about what they’re observing, trying to figure out if we can find a little edge. That’s how we work.”

The Rockets will look different without Morey, but the work remains the same.

jerome.solomon@chron.com
twitter.com/jeromesolomon

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

UH

Cougars need all hands with Stevenson out

By Joseph Duarte
STAFF WRITER

Whenever the University of Houston needed a big play the past two-plus seasons, Marquez Stevenson was usually the first option. But what happens when Stevenson isn't around?

Life without the speedy star wide receiver was not supposed to begin until Stevenson departed for the NFL after this season. An ankle injury will sideline him for at least a week, a tough blow for the Cougars, who are coming off their worst offensive performance of the season and play at sixth-ranked Cincinnati on Saturday.

"He's such a good player. We rely on him so much," coach Dana Holgorsen said Thursday during his weekly segment on "The Matt Thomas Show" on SportsTalk 790. "We're sitting there waiting on somebody to make a play, and usually that guy is Marquez. With him not in the game, we have to look elsewhere."

How will the Cougars fill the void?

"It's an opportunity for other guys to step up," Holgorsen said.

Without Stevenson, the pressure is on the rest of the receiving corps to pick up the slack. Holgorsen listed a handful of receivers who could be counted on. All are capable, the coach said, but all lack experience as a No. 1-type receiver.

The closest UH has to any receiver fitting that description is Keith Corbin, who had 10 touchdowns in 2018, and Jeremy Singleton, who emerged as a reliable option behind Stevenson last season after Corbin decided to red-shirt after four games.

Officially, Bryson Smith, a quarterback-turned-receiver, replaced Stevenson at the "H" receiver spot on this week's two-



Godofredo A. Vásquez / Staff photographer

Keith Corbin, center, will be among the receivers counted on to pick up the slack against No. 6 Cincinnati with Marquez Stevenson out with an ankle injury. Corbin had 10 TDs in 2018.

Injury sidelines top defensive end Turner

Payton Turner, the University of Houston's top defensive player, will miss Saturday's game against No. 6 Cincinnati with an injury, coach Dana Holgorsen said Thursday night on his weekly radio show.

Turner, a senior defensive end, was hurt during the first half of last week's 44-21 loss to UCF.

In four games, Turner leads the American Athletic Conference and is tied for fifth nationally with 9.5 tackles for loss. His four sacks are third in the AAC.

Donavan Mutin, a starter at middle linebacker, will also miss a second straight game with an injury, Holgorsen said.

Joseph Duarte

deep chart. Realistically, it will be all hands on deck, with Corbin, Singleton, Smith, Nathaniel Dell and Cole McGowan among the expected options for quarterback Clayton Tune.

UH's receiving corps took another blow, with Tre'Von Bradley

also ruled out for the Cincinnati game with an injury, Holgorsen announced Thursday night on his weekly radio show.

After Stevenson left midway through the first quarter against UCF, Tune targeted Dell, Bradley and Corbin a combined 29 times,

which represented 71 percent of his 41 pass attempts in the game.

Dell, the closest of the bunch to matching Stevenson's speed, had a career-high six catches for 88 yards and a touchdown.

"He was thrust into kind of a lead role," Holgorsen said after the UCF game.

Corbin, who has drawn praise for making catches in third-down situations, currently leads the team with 17 receptions and has the most targets (26) of any UH receiver. Bradley has been targeted 23 times, followed by Dell (22) and Stevenson (21).

While the Cougars will be without two key receivers, there is one bit of good news: Singleton will be back in the lineup after missing the last two games with an undisclosed injury.



Houston at Cincinnati

When/where: 2:30 p.m. Saturday; Nippert Stadium, Cincinnati.

TV/radio: ESPN; 950 AM.

Smith, who was recruited as a quarterback, moved to receiver full-time when Holgorsen became head coach before the 2019 season. He continues to be a work in progress.

"We're going to be relying on him a little bit this week in Speedy's spot," Holgorsen said. "I'm excited to see how he handles it. ... Saturday is an opportunity for him to say, 'Look, I'm not just Speedy's backup right now. It's time for me to get in there and go.'"

Stevenson's absence will also be felt in the return game, where he has taken back three kickoffs for touchdowns in the last eight games dating to the final month of last season. He's also a threat to bust open a big play every time he touches the ball; his 14 receptions of 40 or more yards rank third among FBS receivers.

"He's one of the most dynamic players in the country," Holgorsen said.

Stevenson is listed as day-to-day and will be evaluated next week in regard to his availability for the Nov. 14 game against USF.

"(Our receivers) have to understand they are the ones we are going to look to now," Holgorsen said. "Speedy is not going to be out there this week, and those guys need to step up. I look forward to watching them having a chance to make some game-changing plays."

joseph.duarte@chron.com
twitter.com/joseph_duarte

TEXAS

Smith catching on to become go-to receiver

By Nick Moyle
STAFF WRITER

AUSTIN – Texas offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich had dialed up the same route for Jake Smith a few times earlier in the game so the sophomore receiver could forecast how Oklahoma State would cover it.

Lined up to the left in the slot, Smith got a free release off soft coverage. He planted his cleats into the turf, wiggled left to shake safety Tre Sterling and broke right toward the end zone on a crossing route.

At the same time about 25 yards away, Texas senior quarterback Sam Ehlinger was skating away from three pass rushers, all trying to secure the sack on fourth-and-7. Using a little skip for extra sauce on the throw, Ehlinger spotted Smith streaking and delivered the 12-yard touchdown pass: Longhorns 34, No. 6 Oklahoma State 31.

"On that play specifically, I was very confident because it was late in the game, and it was not my first time running that route," Smith said Monday. "I knew he was going to play it a little bit shallow, so I knew I had to break it off early."

"I feel confident versus man coverage. And that's something that is really asked of for my position."

Smith's touchdown reception with 4 minutes, 27 seconds left helped lift No. 22 Texas (4-2, 3-2 Big 12) to a 41-34 overtime win at Boone Pickens Stadium. It pre-



Sue Ogrocki / Associated Press

Texas receiver Jake Smith caught a fourth-quarter touchdown pass en route to the Longhorns' OT win over Oklahoma State.

served the chase for a conference championship and doused some of the flames that have threatened to engulf this program during the past few months.

But it was also a pivotal moment for Smith, who has been hampered all season by a nagging hamstring injury. He didn't seem encumbered against Oklahoma State, finishing with a team-best seven receptions on seven targets for 70 yards.

Smith was also responsible for both of Texas' fourth-down conversions and one of its two third-down conversions. He's not yet to the level of Devin Duvernay, who caught 106 passes for 1,341 yards and nine touchdowns last year as a senior, but the talent and poten-

tial for growth is obvious.

"Stepping into a role that was filled by Devin Duvernay is obviously tough because of how great he was," said Smith, who has 14 catches, 133 receiving yards and two touchdowns in three games. "But as the season goes on I'm getting more and more comfortable. I realize in situations like that, the position I play, that's the guy we're trying to look for in third-down situations and man situations. In those situations I have to win, and that's just what I tried to do on Saturday."

Smith, the 2018 national Gatorade player of the year, dealt with the customary adaptive pains of learning the game as a true freshman. With Duvernay gobbling up



West Virginia at Texas

When/Where: 11 a.m. Saturday; Royal-Memorial Stadium, Austin.

TV/radio: ABC; 790 AM.

targets, there weren't many opportunities to go around for the understudy, who played in all 13 games and recorded 25 receptions for 274 yards and six touchdowns.

There were "pinch me so I know I'm awake" moments, such as the go-ahead 20-yard touchdown catch in a 45-38 loss to national champion LSU and the two-score game against Rice.

But there were also drops and losses. At times, he and Ehlinger seemed to be operating on different wavelengths. But an offseason of workouts with new receivers coach Andre Coleman and a more prominent offensive role helped Smith adjust.

"I feel like I'm starting to get the hang of it more," Smith said. "I felt like I still hadn't fully adjusted to the speed of the game because last year I played significant minutes, but not a ton being behind Devin. So getting a couple games under my belt, I've adjusted to the speed, and I feel like I'm starting to come into my own."

Texas needs Smith to produce in a big way Saturday against West Virginia (4-2, 3-2) at Royal-Memo-

rial Stadium.

The Mountaineers own the nation's No. 4 defense and No. 5 passing defense. Only three opposing receivers have topped 50 receiving yards against West Virginia this season, and none have cleared 80 yards.

"It's really important that we have Jake," Yurcich said Wednesday. "He's a huge part of our packages each week. That inside receiver position is vital to this offense. What they can do, how they can uncover versus man; that's the big thing in the slot. You can motion, you can create misdirection with that position a lot of times. That's a space position."

"So a healthy Jake makes us more efficient, makes us more dynamic, brings more consistency."

Smith's fourth-down touchdown against Oklahoma State also doubled as what Texas coach Tom Herman called the best of Ehlinger's career. And the receiver acknowledged how magical No. 11 was in eluding pressure and beaming a perfect pass.

But Smith delivered, too. And Texas hopes that's just the start.

"It definitely gave me a boost in my confidence," Smith said. "Just to be able to have the opportunity to make a play like that at such a crucial point in the game was huge for me. But more importantly, I was happy to be able to do that for the team."

nmoyle@express-news.net
twitter.com/NRmoyle

COLLEGES

Cal-Washington game canceled due to COVID case

The season opener scheduled for Saturday between California and Washington was canceled following a request from the Golden Bears because of a positive coronavirus test for one of their players.

The cancellation was a big blow for the Pac-12 as the conference prepares to kick off a seven-game football slate after league programs had watched other teams around the country playing for weeks.

California doesn't have the minimum number of scholarship players available for the game as a result of the positive test and the need for other players to isolate under contact tracing protocols, the Pac-12 said in a

statement Thursday.

Pac-12 guidelines require at least 53 scholarship players to be available for a game to be played. The conference said the game would be declared a no-contest.

The Washington-Cal game marks the seventh FBS game this week and the 44th since Aug. 26 to be postponed or canceled.

The service academy game between Air Force and Army scheduled for Saturday in West Point, N.Y., was also postponed Thursday because of an increase in COVID-19 cases at the Air Force Academy and the surrounding community in Colorado. The schools are working to reschedule the game.

Air Force can regain pos-

session of the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy should it beat Army. The Falcons began the annual round-robin competition between the service academies with a 40-7 win over Navy on Oct. 3. The winning academy goes to the White House to receive the trophy from the president.

Earlier Thursday, the American Athletic Conference postponed the Tulsa at Navy game scheduled for Saturday because of positive COVID-19 cases and contact tracing at Navy.

Also Thursday, Minnesota announced defensive coordinator Joe Rossi would not coach Saturday against Illinois because he had tested positive for CO-

VID-19.

Later Thursday, Saturday's game between North Texas and Louisiana Tech also was postponed because of the number of COVID-19 cases and subsequent contact tracing. The teams are working together with Conference USA to reschedule the game and are hopeful it can be played the weekend of Dec. 5.

Syracuse's Williams leaves, to enter draft

Syracuse junior defensive back Trill Williams is following former star safety Andre Cisco out the door.

Williams announced Wednesday night on social media that

he's opting out of the remainder of the 2020 season and will enter the 2021 NFL draft.

Williams played in 28 games for Syracuse and had 93 tackles, four interceptions, three forced fumbles and 3½ tackles for loss in his three seasons. He scored a remarkable touchdown in the season finale against Wake Forest last year, forcing a fumble and returning it 94 yards for the winning touchdown in overtime.

Cisco, a preseason All-American, opted out after playing the first two games of the season. He was injured in warmups prior to the third game and never returned. He also plans to enter next year's NFL draft.

From wire reports

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

TOMPKINS 24, KATY 19

Falcons snap Tigers’ district streak at 75

By Adam Coleman
STAFF WRITER

Katy ISD is a new shade of red.

Tompkins ended Katy’s 75-game win streak in district play with Thursday’s 24-19 win over the Tigers in a meeting of 5-0 teams at Legacy Stadium. Katy nearly made it 12 exact years without a district loss, the last coming against Cinco Ranch on Nov. 8, 2008. It was the state’s second-longest active streak of district wins.

Tompkins sent a shot across the state it is a contender in Class 6A Division I, and it has the quarterback-receiver duo of Jalen Milroe and Josh McMillan to thank.

The pair connected for three touchdowns in the win. Milroe, a University of Alabama commitment, completed 15 of 21 passes for 211 yards and three touchdowns. McMillan caught eight passes for 146 yards and three scores.

The magnitude of what the Falcons accomplished won’t be realized until later. Many claim they want to end Katy’s reign, Milroe said, but his team was serious about doing so. Tompkins lost to Katy 35-30 last season. On Thursday, Milroe said he saw something few opponents ever see on Katy’s sideline in the fourth quarter.

“We feed off of energy, and one of our core values that we have on our wrist is high energy,” Milroe said. “We’re always going to play with high energy. No matter what it is. When we saw their heads drop, that was key for us to keep pushing.”

Milroe and McMillan’s third touchdown of the night was the biggest. It came on a fourth-and-17, went for 30 yards and Tompkins took a 24-13 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Before that, the first score between the two went for 20 yards with McMillan bobbling the ball in the air before coming down with it for the score. The other was the result of



Michael Wyke / Contributor

Tompkins defender Colby Huerter, right, pulls in one of two first-half interceptions for the Falcons. Tompkins remained unbeaten in District 19-6A, and improved to 6-0 overall, by beating Katy and snapping the Tigers’ streak that dated back to November 2008.

Tompkins running its two-minute offense to perfection before the break. The 18-yard score came off a seven-play drive taking 1:02 off the clock, and Tompkins led 14-10 at halftime.

Tompkins’ defense had its say, too, especially in the first half. The unit held Katy to Nemanja Lazic’s 39-yard field goal after Jalen Davis cut through for a 34-yard run into Falcons territory on the game’s first play.

Tompkins defenders Colby Huerter and Dru Polidore each pulled down an interception in the first half, too. Polidore’s interception ended Katy’s attempt at responding to Milroe and McMillan’s second touchdown.

Before Tompkins’ touchdown on fourth-and-17, the teams spent most of the third quarter trading field goals. The Falcons didn’t settle when opportunity arose.

“Put it in Jalen’s hands, and let’s go,” Tompkins coach Todd McVey said of the decision on fourth-

and-17. “Take a shot. That’s our quarterback, and we trust him. He did a great job of making that play happen, and the offense got it going, so it was good.”

For those unaware, McMillan announced his arrival Thursday. The junior is a transfer from Cypress Lakes. Milroe said McMillan brings energy, speed and smarts to the program. McMillan feels fortunate to be in the position he’s in.

“It’s a blessing to be here because not everybody can be in this position,” McMil-

lan said. “So it’s a blessing from God. That’s who you have to trust.”

Davis’ 86-yard touchdown run was coup for Katy in the second quarter. He also finished with 19 carries for 228 yards, but the Tigers wouldn’t see the end zone again until 4:41 left in the game. Quarterback Caleb Koger found Taylor Saulsberry for a 17-yard touchdown. Even though a two-point conversion failed, Katy cut the deficit to 24-19.

The door for a comeback

was left open with Tompkins’ offense pinned at its own 5-yard line on the ensuing kickoff and Katy’s defense subsequently forcing a three-and-out.

Hunter Huckaby’s 55-yard punt, however, pushed Katy to its own 38 with 3:49 remaining and no timeouts.

Tompkins’ defense forced a stop, converging on top of Koger on a fourth-and-13 for a sack.

adam.coleman@chron.com
twitter.com/chroncoleman

SUMMARIES

Tompkins 24, Katy 19

KTY	3	7	3	6	—	19
KTT	7	7	10	0	—	24
KTT						
First downs	0					
Rushes-yards	28-285					
Comp-Att-Int.	15-21-0					
Passing yards	211					
Punts-avg.	0-0					
Fumbles-avg.	0-0					
Penalties-yards	3-15					
Records	4-0, 2-0					

KTY: Nemanja Lazic 37 field goal, 08:56, 1st.
KTT: Joshua McMillan 20 pass from Jalen Milroe, (Hunter Huckaby kick) 05:10, 1st.
KTY: Jalen Davis 96 run, (Nemanja Lazic kick) 07:20, 2nd.
KTT: Joshua McMillan 18 pass from Jalen Milroe, (Hunter Huckaby kick) 01:14, 2nd.
KTY: Hunter Huckaby 42 field goal, 09:33, 3rd.
KTY: Nemanja Lazic 42 field goal, 04:45, 3rd.
KTT: Joshua McMillan 30 pass from Jalen Milroe, (Hunter Huckaby kick) 00:43, 3rd.
KTY: Taylor Saulsberry 17 pass from Caleb Koger, (Caleb Koger pass failed) 04:41, 4th.
Leading rushers: KTY — M. Shoulders 18-89, S. Smith 5-31, J. Milroe 2-1, KTY — J. Davis 19-228, 1 TD, S. Davis 18-92, C. Koger 4-(-17).
Leading passers: KTY — J. Milroe 15-21-0, 211 yards, 3 TDs. KTY — C. Koger 7-15-2, 81 yards, 1 TD.
Leading receivers: KTY — J. McMillan 9-146, 3 TDs. M. Shoulders 5-36, M. Ogurnin 2-29, KTY — N. Anderson 3-55, T. Saulsberry 2-24, 1 TD, I. Smith 2-2.
Interceptions: KTY — C. Huerter, D. Polidore.

Travis 41, Bush 7

BUS	0	14	0	0	7	—	7
TRA	17	14	7	3	0	—	41
TRA							
First downs	14						
Rushes-yards	25-121						
Comp-Att-Int.	12-20-2						
Passing yards	87						
Punts-avg.	0-0						
Fumbles-avg.	2-2						
Penalties-yards	4-25						
Records	2-0, 2-0						
TRA: Sergio Rubio 22 field goal, 5:52, 1st.							
TRA: Jamison Singetery 1 run, (Sergio Rubio kick) 4:27,							

1st.
TRA: Anthony Njoku 1 run, (Sergio Rubio kick) 1:52, 1st.
TRA: Jamison Singetery 5 run, (Sergio Rubio kick) 6:22, 2nd.
TRA: Marcus Chretien 17 pass from Anthony Njoku, (Sergio Rubio kick) 3:18, 2nd.
TRA: Jeremiah Powell 2 pass from Anthony Njoku, (Sergio Rubio kick) 5:03, 3rd.
TRA: Sergio Rubio 30 field goal, 10:07, 4th.
TRA: Jacory Cormier 3 run, (Lino Luna kick) 0:50, 4th.
Leading rushers: BUS — N. Borgella 14-71, J. Cormier 17-51, 1 TD.
TRA — J. Singetery 13-61, 2 TDs. A. Njoku 7-46.
TRA — J. Singetery 13-61, 2 TDs. A. Njoku 7-46.
Leading receivers: BUS — D. Nkoni 1-(-5), TRA — M. Chretien 5-40, 1 TD, J. Powell 3-23, 1 TD.
Interceptions: BUS — C. Frazier, M. Olaniyan.

Jersey Village 35, Spring Woods 0

JSV	0	14	7	14	—	35
SWD	0	0	0	0	—	0
SWD						
First downs	10					
Rushes-yards	46-158					
Comp-Att-Int.	1-9-1					
Passing yards	0					
Punts-avg.	5-37.8					
Fumbles-avg.	1-1					
Penalties-yards	5-30					
Records	1-4, 0-3					
JSV: Andre Fields 6 run, (Rodrigo Garcia kick) 08:59, 2nd.						
JSV: Brandon Phan 75 pass from Adam Tran, (Rodrigo Garcia kick) 01:21, 2nd.						
JSV: Arbie Carter 4 run, (Rodrigo Garcia kick) 02:40, 3rd.						
JSV: Lavar Alexis 12 run, (Rodrigo Garcia kick) 09:54, 4th.						
JSV: Quinton Jones 63 run, (Rodrigo Garcia kick) 06:04, 4th.						
Leading rushers: JSV — L. Alexis 13-101, 1 TD, Q. Jones 2-69, 1 TD, R. Estes 6-55, A. Tran 8-22, X. Joyce 2-20, A. Fields 1-6, 1 TD, A. Carter 1-4, 1 TD, SWD — D. Cariga 13-58, A. Trevino 12-54, T. Ainsworth 4-20, I. McKnight 15-17, M. Perez 1-5, M. Ortega 2-4.						
Leading passers: JSV — A. Tran 5-12-2, 160 yards, 1 TD.						
SWD — I. McKnight 1-9-1, 0 yards.						
Leading receivers: JSV — B. Phan 1-75, 1 TD, M. Evans 2-51, L. Alexis 1-23, D. Burrell 1-21.						
SWD — T. Ainsworth 1-0.						
Interceptions: JSV — C. Noble.						
SWD — A. Trevino, A. Rodriguez.						

Cypress Woods 42, Cy Park 28

HCP	7	7	0	14	—	28
CYW	7	21	7	7	—	42
CYW						
First downs	25					
Rushes-yards	64-428					
Comp-Att-Int.	3-10-3					
Passing yards	53					
Punts-avg.	1-26					
Fumbles-avg.	1-1					
Penalties-yards	6-54					
Records	4-3, 3-2					
HCP: Nathan Livingston 5 pass from Edward Dixon, (Christian Costaneda kick) 05:52, 1st.						
CYW: Trayse Holmes 11 run, (Michael Fernandez kick) 01:53, 1st.						
CYW: Trayse Holmes 14 run, (Michael Fernandez kick) 07:59, 2nd.						
HCP: Nathan Livingston 66 run, (Christian Costaneda kick) 07:39, 2nd.						
CYW: Dylan Cormier 9 run, (Michael Fernandez kick) 08:44, 2nd.						
CYW: Trayse Holmes 7 run, (Michael Fernandez kick) 03:04, 2nd.						
CYW: Trayse Holmes 2 run, (Michael Fernandez kick) 02:19, 3rd.						
HCP: Cameron King 3 run, (Christian Costaneda kick) 09:58, 4th.						
CYW: Dylan Cormier 4 run, (M. Fernandez kick) 07:33, 4th.						
HCP: Harold Perkins 64 pass from Edward Dixon, (Christian Costaneda kick) 06:32, 4th.						
Phillip 5-109, D. Cormier 19-82, 2 TDs. T. Craft 7-79, C. Morris 4-11, J. Stewart 4-11, HCP — N. Livingston 9-81, 1 TD, C. King 10-34, 1 TD, H. Perkins 8-27, E. Dixon 5-(-20). Leading passers: CYW — D. Cormier 3-10-3, 53 yards. HCP — E. Dixon 7-17-2, 106 yards, 2 TDs. Leading receivers: CYW — C. Morris 2-40, J. Miles 1-13. HCP — H. Perkins 4-94, 1 TD, P. Owens 1-9, N. Livingston 2-3, 1 TD. Interceptions: CYW — S. Carson, L. Grant. HCP — R. Sims, C. King, R. Davis.						

Terry 34, Kempner 6

KEM	0	0	0	6	—	6
TER	13	8	6	7	—	34
TER						
First downs	16					

Rushes-yards 33-289
Comp-Att-Int. 11-17-0
Passing yards 84
Punts-avg. 2-33.5
Fumbles-avg. 0-0
Penalties-yards 5-35
Records 3-1, 1-1
1-2, 0-2
TER: Kellen Stewart 66 run, (Jason Lopez kick) 6:58, 1st.
TER: Sergio Simmons-Cox 20 pass from Kellen Stewart, (kick failed) 0:00, 1st.
TER: Kellen Stewart 85 run, (Kellen Stewart run) 7:30, 2nd.
TER: Mike Odum 1 run, (kick failed) 5:48, 3rd.
TER: Clayton Bedford 10 pass from Alex Martinez, (Jason Lopez kick) 1:08, 4th.
KEM: Edron Gray 5 run, (pass failed) 11:50, 4th.
KEM: Dylan Cormier 4 run, (M. Fernandez kick) 07:33, 4th.
Gray 5-42, 1 TD, I. Ekwen 4-34, M. Ealy 9-25, TER — K. Stewart 8-214, 2 TDs, m. odum 13-62, 1 TD, J. Martinez 2-7, D. Coronado 6-6, K. Horidge 3-0, A. Axel 1-0.
Leading passers: KEM — M. Ealy 9-25, 23 yards. TER — K. Stewart 10-36-0, 74 yards, 1 TD, A. Martinez 1-1-0, 10 yards, 1 TD.
Leading receivers: KEM — E. Gray 1-12, E. Samuel 1-10, P. Milligan 1-1, TER — A. Brown 1-21, S. Simmons-Cox 1-20, 1 TD, T. Harold 3-18, B. Bedford 1-10, 1 TD, m. odum 2-9, T. Mitchell 2-6.
Interceptions: TER — T. Swanks.

Galena Park 44, Northside 6

NOR	0	0	0	6	—	6
GPK	21	13	10	0	—	44
GPK						
First downs	21					
Rushes-yards	40-320					
Comp-Att-Int.	5-6-1					
Passing yards	76					
Punts-avg.	0-0					
Fumbles-avg.	1-0					
Penalties-yards	4-33					
Records	2-1, 1-0					
GPK: Ozil Trevino 14 pass from A'Marion Kelly, (Fernando Mendoza kick) 09:25, 1st.						
GPK: A'Marion Kelly 5 run, (Fernando Mendoza kick) 04:05, 1st.						
GPK: Jose Barrientos 3 run, (Fernando Mendoza kick) 00:10, 1st.						
GPK: A'Marion Kelly 13 run, (kick failed) 09:32, 2nd.						
GPK: Arturo Garcia 24 run, (Fernando Mendoza kick) 08:00, 2nd.						

GPK: Arturo Garcia 22 run, (Fernando Mendoza kick) 03:34, 3rd.
GPK: Fernando Mendoza 25 field goal, 00:25, 3rd.
NOR: Ronald Holmes 4 run, (kick failed) 04:33, 4th.
Leading rushers: GPK — J. Barrientos 10-104, 2 TDs. A. Kelly 8-71, 2 TDs. A. Garcia 7-63, 2 TDs. R. Medina 6-46, R. Gonzalez 5-36, NOR — R. Holmes 13-15, 1 TD.
Leading passers: GPK — R. Gonzalez 5-6-1, 62 yards. A. Kelly 1-1-0, 14 yards, 1 TD. NOR — R. Holmes 11-25-4, 147 yards.
Leading receivers: GPK — B. Vasquez 2-45, O. Trevino 1-14, 1 TD, NOR — D. Moore 5-53, K. Hayes 2-42, B. Yarbough 2-19, J. Williams 1-17.
Interceptions: GPK — A. Zamora, K. Sheppard, J. Baines. NOR — T. Bradley.

Crosby 55, Kingwood Park 17

CRO	21	20	7	7	—	55
KPK	0	10	0	7	—	17
KPK						
First downs	16					
Rushes-yards	35-78					
Comp-Att-Int.	14-34-2					
Passing yards	151					
Punts-avg.	5-37.4					
Fumbles-avg.	2-0					
Penalties-yards	5-35					

ON THE AIR

Television

Col. football	Miami at North Carolina St.	ESPN	6:30 p.m.
Col. football	San Jose St. at San Diego St.	CBS	8 p.m.
Col. football	BYU at Boise St.	FS1	8:45 p.m.
Col. soccer	Virginia Tech at Virginia	FSSW	3 p.m.
Col. soccer	Louisville at Notre Dame	FSSW	6 p.m.
Col. soccer	Duke at North Carolina	ACC	7 p.m.
Col. volleyball	TCU at Oklahoma (w)	FSSW+	6 p.m.
Col. volleyball	South Carolina at Tennessee (w)	SEC	6 p.m.
Col. volleyball	Baylor at Texas (w)	LHN	7 p.m.
Golf	Cyprus Showdown	Golf	4 a.m.
Golf	Dubai Moonlight Classic	Golf	9 a.m.
Golf	Vivint Houston Open	Golf	noon
Golf	Charles Schwab Cup Championship	Golf	3 p.m.
Horse racing	America's Day at the Races	FS2	10 a.m.
Horse racing	Breeders' Cup Series	FSSW+	noon
HS football	American Heritage (Fla.) at St. Thomas Aquinas (Fla.)	ESPN2	7 p.m.
Motor sports	NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck race	FS1	7 p.m.
Swimming	The N7	CBS	9 a.m.
Tennis	Paris Masters	Tennis	7 a.m.

SCOREBOARD

America's line

Home team capitalized

College football

Favorite	Pts	O/U	Underdog
Miami	10½	58½	N.C. ST.
SAN DIEGO ST.	9½	47½	San Jose St.
Byu	3½	61	BOISE ST.

Saturday

Favorite	Pts	O/U	Underdog
SMU	17½	62½	TEMPLE
Tulane	5	60½	E. CAROLINA
FLORIDA ST.	1½	51½	Pittsburgh
COASTAL CAR.	18	55½	S. Alabama
VA. TECH	14½	67½	Liberty
Troy	3	55	GA. SOUTHERN
CINCINNATI	13½	54½	Houston
GEORGIA ST.	19	58½	La.-Monroe
Boston College	14	52½	SYRACUSE
N. Carolina	11	63½	DUKE
Michigan	3	54½	INDIANA
OHIO ST.	38	64½	Rutgers
PENN ST.	25	64½	Maryland
IOWA ST.	14	47½	Baylor
Minnesota	7	61½	ILLINOIS
IOWA	6½	46½	Michigan St.
Ucla	6½	55½	COLORADO
UTAH	14	57½	Arizona
USC	11	56½	Arizona St.
OREGON	8½	51½	Stanford
OREGON ST.	1½	65½	Washington St.
Fresno St.	11½	58½	UNLV
App'chian St.	17½	56½	TEXAS ST.
MEMPHIS	18	64½	Ust
OKLAHOMA	38	63½	Kansas
TCU	9	61½	Texas Tech
Oklahoma St.	12½	46½	KANSAS ST.
TEXAS	6½	54½	W. Virginia
NORTHWEST-ERN	3½	55	Nebraska
j-Georgia	3	52½	Florida
RICE	4½	46½	Utsha
Charlotte	4	64½	MID. TENN. ST.
MISS. ST.	19	44½	Vanderbilt
LA.-LAFAYETTE	14	68	Arkansas St.
HAWAII	16	62½	New Mexico
FLA. ATLANTIC	6½	39½	W. Kentucky
TOLEDO	10	58½	S. CAROLINA
Clemson	5	50½	NOTRE DAME
Tennessee	2	52½	ARKANSAS
MARSHALL	45	55½	Massachusetts

Jacksonville, Florida

College football

Week 10 schedule

Wednesday's results

Ken. St. 27, Eastern Michigan 23
Western Michigan 58, Akron 13
Buffalo 49, Northern Illinois 30
Central Michigan 30, Ohio 27
Miami (Ohio) 38, Ball St. 31
Toledo 38, Bowling Green 3

Thursday's results

Colorado St. 34, Wyoming 24
Nebraska 34, Utah St. 9

Today's games

Miami at N.C. St., 6:30 p.m.
San Jose St. at San Diego St., 8 p.m.
BYU at Boise St., 8:45 p.m.

Saturday's games

East

SMU at Temple, 11 a.m.
Boston College at Syracuse, 1 p.m.
Air Force at Army, postponed
Tulsa at Navy, postponed

South

Liberty at Virginia Tech, 11 a.m.
South Florida at Memphis, 11 a.m.
Tulane at East Carolina, 11 a.m.
North Carolina at Duke, 11 a.m.
La.-Monroe at Georgia St., 11 a.m.
Arkansas St. at La.-Lafayette, 11 a.m.
Troy at Georgia Southern, noon
Massachusetts at Marshall, 1:30 p.m.
North Alabama at Southern Mississippi, 2 p.m.
Florida vs. Georgia at Jacksonville, Fla., 2:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Middle Tennessee, 2:30 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Mississippi St., 3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Florida St., 3 p.m.
Western Kentucky at Florida Atlantic, 5 p.m.
Texas A&M at South Carolina, 6 p.m.
South Alabama at Coastal Carolina, 7 p.m.
Louisville at Virginia, postponed

Midwest

Michigan at Indiana, 11 a.m.
Nebraska at Northwestern, 11 a.m.
Michigan St. at Iowa, 11 a.m.
Houston at Cincinnati, 2:30 p.m.
Maryland at Penn St., 2:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Illinois, 2:30 p.m.
Oklahoma St. at Kansas St., 3 p.m.
Baylor at Iowa St., 6 p.m.
Clemson at Notre Dame, 6:30 p.m.
Rutgers at Ohio St., 6:30 p.m.
Purdue at Wisconsin, canceled

Southwest

West Virginia at Texas, 11 a.m.
Appalachian St. at Texas St., 2 p.m.
Kansas at Oklahoma, 2:30 p.m.
UTSA at Rice, 2:30 p.m.
Texas Tech at TCU, 2:30 p.m.
Tennessee at Arkansas, 6:30 p.m.
Louisiana Tech at North Texas, postponed
Florida International at UTEP, canceled

West

Arizona St. at Southern Cal, 11 a.m.
Fresno St. at UNLV, 2:30 p.m.
Arizona at Utah, 3 p.m.
UCLA at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Stanford at Oregon, 6:30 p.m.
Washington St. at Oregon St., 9:30 p.m.
New Mexico at Hawaii, 10 p.m.
Washington at California, canceled

Golf

European Tour — Aphrodite Hills

Cyprus Showdown

At Paphos, Cyprus

Robert MacIntyre	33-32-65
Romain Langasque	33-33-66
Joakim Lagergren	33-33-66
Asun Wu	34-32-66
Rikard Karlberg	34-32-66
Sami Valimäki	35-31-66
Thomas Detry	35-31-66
Jamie Donaldson	35-31-66
Dave Horsey	37-30-67
Joost Luiten	37-30-67
Sebastian Garcia Rodriguez	37-34-67
Alexander Levy	37-34-67
Johnnie Weir	37-34-67
Alexander Bjork	37-34-67
Shubhankar Sharma	37-34-67
James Morrison	36-32-68
Benjamin Hebert	35-33-68
Nacho Elvira	32-36-68
Louis De Jager	35-33-68
Joel Sjöholm	35-33-68
Alexander Bjork	35-33-68
Pablo Larrazabal	35-33-68
Daan Huizinga	35-33-68
Grant Forrest	35-33-68
Steven Brown	35-33-68
Marcus Kinhult	35-33-68
Gallium Shinkwin	32-36-68
Marcus Armitage	35-33-68
Kalle Samojlo	34-36-68
Richard Bland	36-33-69
Oliver Wilson	38-31-69
Lars Van Meijel	37-32-69
Ross McGowan	36-33-69
Cornac Sharvin	36-33-69
Oliver Farr	35-34-69
Jorge Campillo	35-34-69
Nicolai Højgaard	38-31-69
Antoine Rozner	35-34-69
Chris Paisley	35-34-69
Scott Vincent	37-33-70
Bernd Ritthammer	34-36-70
Gavin Green	34-36-70
Samir Porteous	34-36-70
Sebastian Heisele	33-37-70
Ross Fisher	38-32-70
Niklas Lemke	35-35-70
Clement Sordet	35-35-70
Thorbjorn Olesen	37-33-70
Jonas Persson	38-32-70
Matthies Pavon	34-36-70
Jack Floyd	36-34-70

Francesco Laporta	35-35-70
David Drysdale	36-34-70
Connor Syme	35-35-70
Maverick Antcliff	34-36-70
Even Ferguson	34-36-70
Haydn Porteous	36-34-70
Carlos Pleguez	36-34-70
Adrian Meronik	37-33-70

Holes-in-one

(Name, course, hole, yards, club)
Jeff Frenza, Lakeside, 10, 120, pitching wedge
Andrew Atkinson, Lakeside, 4, 130, 7-iron
Frank McKeown, Bent Water, 17, 130, 24 degree hybrid

High schools

Volleyball playoff schedule

Thursday's results

Class 4A
Region III
Bellville 3, Liberty 0

Region IV

Class 3A
Region III
East Bernard 3, Anderson-Shiro 0

Today's game

Class 4A

Region III
Huffman Hargrave vs. Bridge City, 5:30 (Lumberton)

Soccer

MLS

East	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Philadelphia	13	4	5	44	42	20
x-Toronto FC	13	4	5	44	32	24
x-Orlando City	11	3	8	41	38	22
x-Columbus	11	6	5	38	34	20
x-New York City FC	11	8	3	36	33	22
x-New England	8	6	8	32	26	23
x-New York	8	9	5	29	27	30
x-Nashville	7	7	8	29	21	20
Montreal	7	13	2	23	30	41
Chicago	5	9	8	23	30	35
Atlanta	6	12	4	22	22	28
Inter Miami CF	6	13	3	21	23	34
D.C. United	5	11	6	21	23	38
Cincinnati	4	14	4	16	11	34
West	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Portland	11	6	5	38	45	34
x-Sporting K.C.	11	6	3	36	36	25
x-Seattle	10	5	6	36	40	22
x-FC Dallas	9	5	7	34	28	21
x-Los Angeles FC	9	8	4	31	46	38
x-Minnesota United	8	5	7	31	33	26
San Jose	8	8	6	30	34	47
Colorado	7	6	4	25	30	27
Vancouver	8	14	0	24	24	44
LA Galaxy	6	11	4	22	27	43
Real Salt Lake	5	9	7	22	25	33
Houston	4	9	9	21	29	38

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
x- clinched playoff spot

Wednesday's results

Orlando City 2, Columbus 1
Chicago 2, Minnesota 2
FC Dallas 1, Nashville 0
Colorado 1, Portland 0
Seattle 1, LA Galaxy 1
San Jose 3, Los Angeles FC 2

Sunday's games

New York City FC at Chicago, 2:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Columbus, 2:30 p.m.
Montreal at D.C. United, 2:30 p.m.
Cincinnati at Miami, 2:30 p.m.
Toronto FC at New York, 2:30 p.m.
Nashville at Orlando City, 2:30 p.m.
New England at Philadelphia, 2:30 p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 5:30 p.m.
Portland at Los Angeles FC, 5:30 p.m.
FC Dallas at Minnesota, 5:30 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Real Salt Lake, 5:30 p.m.
San Jose at Seattle, 5:30 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Vancouver, 5:30 p.m.

Tennis

ATP World Tour — Paris Masters

Thursday at Paris

Men's singles

Round of 16

Diego Schwartzman (6), Argentina, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 6-1, 6-1.
Milos Raonic (10), Canada, def. Marcos Giron, United States, 7-6 (1), 6-2.
Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Alex de Minaur (16), Australia, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.
Ugo Humbert, France, def. Marin Cilic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.
Pablo Carreno Busta (9), Spain, def. Norbert Gombos, Slovakia, 7-5, 6-2.
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-1, 7-6 (3).
Alexander Zverev (4), Germany, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 7-6 (1), 6-7 (7), 6-4.
Stan Wawrinka (2), Switzerland, vs. Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Transactions

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES: Acquired INFs A.J. Graffanino and Greg Cullen from Atlanta to complete the Aug. 30 trade for LHP Tommy Milone.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS: Acquired SS Ronny Simon from Chicago Cubs to complete the Aug. 31 trade for LHP Andrew Chafin.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES: Acquired RHP Rodolfo Sanchez from Tampa Bay to complete the Aug. 18 trade for RHP Edgar Garcia.

FOOTBALL

NFL

BALTIMORE RAVENS: Activated OLB Matthew Judon from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

BUFFALO BILLS: Activated TE Dawson Knox from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

CAROLINA PANTHERS: Activated DE Yetur Gross-Matos from injured reserve.

CLEVELAND BROWNS: Promoted LB Elijah Lee to the active roster.

GREEN BAY PACKERS: Promoted S Henry Black, CB Stanford Samuels and RB Dexter Williams to the active roster as COVID-19 replacements.

PITTSBURGH RAIDERS: Activated CB Damon Arnette to return from injured reserve. Placed OT Trent Brown on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: Promoted G Tony Bergstrom and RB Austin Walter from the practice squad to the active roster.

Activated WRs River Cracraft and Kevin White, S Johnathan Cyprien, TE Daniel Helm to the active roster.

Signed DT Josiah Coates to the practice squad. Released WR Chris Finke.

Activated TE Jordan Reed from injured reserve. Placed QB Jimmy Garoppolo and TE George Kittle on injured reserve.

MIAMI DOLPHINS: Placed RB Myles Gaskin on injured reserve.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS: Re-signed WR Cyril Grayson to the practice squad. Released WR John Hurst.

TENNESSEE TITANS: Signed LS Matt Orzech from the Miami practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

WINNIPEG JETS: Signed F Marko Dano to a one-year, two-way contract.

COLLEGE

NCAA: Announced approval of transfer and eligibility for F Logan Padgett from Stanford University to University of New Mexico.

Outdoors report

Calcasieu Lake — HR&G reported limits of trout. Flounder action is good on gulps.

BREEDERS' CUP

Races offer a bit of normalcy

By Gary Graves

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky.— This year's Triple Crown slate unfolded over 3½ months instead of six weeks and shuffled the marquee Kentucky Derby from its traditional first Saturday in May to Labor Day weekend — as the middle jewel.

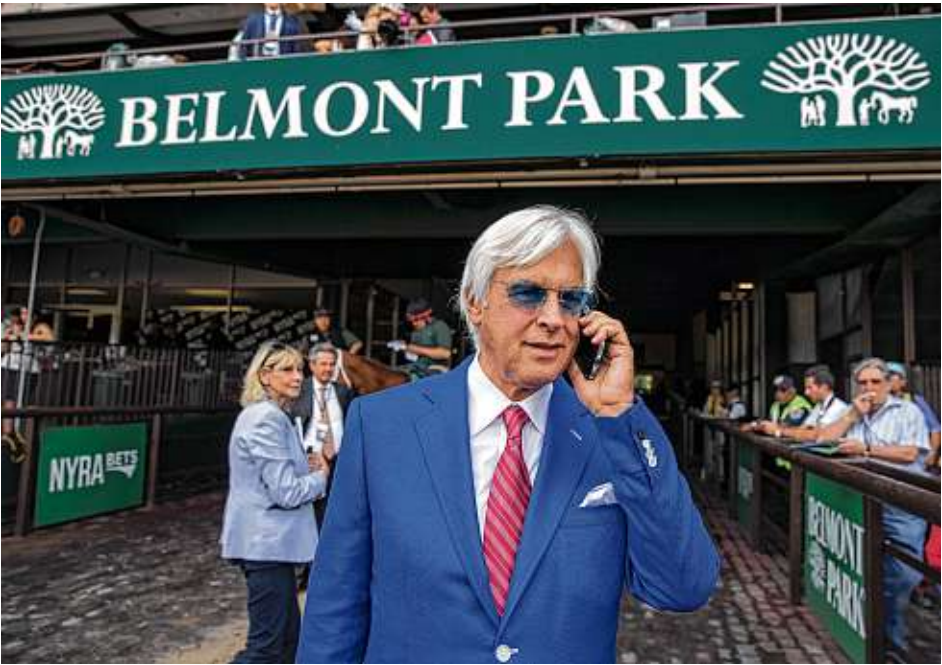
Numerous tracks canceled meets and some returned with abbreviated schedules. Many cards went off without the noise of spectators, demonstrating the coronavirus pandemic's impact on horse racing that continues to this day.

While it has made for a strange year and compacted path to this weekend's \$31 million Breeders' Cup world championships at Keeneland, the 14 races running Friday and Saturday at the picturesque track provides some normalcy after a season of upheaval.

"It's certainly getting back to normal in a feel way," trainer Ken McPeck said this week. "It'll be exciting to get fans back in. I know that a lot of them miss it, but I also know that a lot of them are watching real close. The sport's done a good job staying out there in the limelight to some extent."

High-quality competition helps and once again could determine the Eclipse Award favorites as the year's best in several divisions. Saturday's marquee \$6 million Classic highlights the depth with a rematch between Belmont Stakes champ Tiz the Law and Derby winner Authentic, the Bob Baffert-trained pupil who went wire to wire and beat the race favorite by 1¼ lengths at Churchill Downs.

And yet, both 3-year-olds are listed as betting choices below veterans and Baffert stablemates Improbable (5-2) and Maximum Security (7-2), who crossed the fin-



Victor J. Blue / New York Times

Trainer Bob Baffert has three entries in the Breeders' Cup Classic, including Kentucky Derby winner Authentic, Maximum Security and Improbable.

Today's post times
\$1 million Juvenile Turf Sprint, 1:30 p.m.
\$2 million Juvenile Turf, 2:10 p.m.
\$2 million Juvenile Fillies, 2:50 p.m.
\$1 million Juvenile Fillies Turf, 3:30 p.m.
\$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile, 4:10 p.m.

Saturday's post times
\$1 million Cup Filly & Mare Sprint, 11:02 a.m.
\$1 million Turf Sprint, 11:39 a.m.
\$1 million Juvenile Fillies, 2:50 p.m.
\$1 million Juvenile Fillies Turf, 3:30 p.m.
\$1 million Dirt Mile, 12:18 p.m.
\$2 million Filly & Mare Turf, 12:57 p.m.
\$2 million Sprint, 1:36 p.m.
\$2 million Mile, 2:15 p.m.
\$2 million Distaff, 2:54 p.m.
\$4 million Turf, 3:33 p.m.
\$6 million Classic, 4:13 p.m.

ish line first in last year's Derby before becoming the first in 145 years to be disqualified for interference.

Not a bad way to enter the 10-horse Classic with a reigning Derby winner, a 3-year-old champion (Maximum Security) who has six wins and two seconds since that controversy, and another colt on a three-race winning streak.

"I've never been this strong before in the Classic," Baffert said. "Usually, I'd be happy to have just one of those in the Classic. To have three is pretty amazing."

The Classic nearly had all three Triple Crown race winners before filly and Preakness winner Swiss Skydiver opted to compete

against her own gender in the \$2 million Distaff. She's the 2-1 second choice behind Monomoy Girl (8-5), who won this race two years ago and Eclipse Award as the top 3-year-old filly.

Monomoy Girl has returned from missing 2019 because of a pulled muscle and colic to win all three starts in 2020, including the Grade I La Troienne at Churchill Downs in September. Trainer and Louisville native Brad Cox briefly considered another tuneup before the Distaff but cited her previous competition schedule and said, "it seems to be working pretty well."

Five feature races for 2-year-olds highlight Friday's card with nine on Saturday on dirt and turf.

Compared to previous years where Triple Crown qualifiers and other marquee races are spread throughout the spring and summer, the reshuffled schedule has helped many horses run their best entering the season finale.

"The Breeders' Cup is perhaps the only sport in

which the product on the field has actually benefited from the pandemic," NBC Sports analyst Randy Moss said in a network release. "Because many racetracks were closed in the spring, horses couldn't run as often, and now they are fresher and

NOVEMBER 6 — 12, 2020 HH

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE'S WEEKLY INSIDER'S GUIDE

DRIVING THROUGH
THE HOLIDAY
LIGHT PARK. 6

PREVIEW

Reel
change

18

The Houston Cinema Arts Festival returns online and at drive-ins. | 12



BEFORE
Messy clogged gutters



AFTER
No clogs!

Why clean out your home's gutters?

Eliminate the expense, effort and danger of cleaning your gutters with America's finest no-clog rain-gutter system.

GutterMaxx is the leaf-free gutter system that really works! And with over 40 years of experience and thousands of satisfied customers, we stand behind it with our no-nonsense guarantee: *if it ever clogs we clean it.*

SAVE
\$300⁰⁰

ON A GUTTERMAXX GUTTER INSTALLATION

FREE ESTIMATE

LOCALLY BASED

CALL
832-990-0925
TODAY!

GutterMaxx
America's finest leaf-free gutter

R-1

CONTENTS

3

PREVIEW PICKS

"Honky Tonk Laundry" and Wilco are among our favorites.

5

FAMILY OUTING

Why not book an entire theater for family and friends?

6

HOLIDAYS

Welcome to the new Light Park in the Splashtown parking lot.

7

BURGER FRIDAY

Alison Cook says Alice Blue won't give you the blues.

8

CLASSICAL

The Black composer who made Mozart jealous.

15

MOVIES

Kevin Costner, Diane Lane star in a new thriller.



**A NEW VENUE BLOOMS IN A
HEIGHTS BACKYARD. 10**

Lawrence Elizabeth Knox / Contributor

Preview editor

Cary Darling, 713-362-6168,
cary.darling@chron.com

Features editors

Melissa Aguilar,
melissa.aguilar@chron.com
Jody Schmal,
jody.schmal@chron.com

Calendar coordinator

Ana Khan, 713-362-1508,
ana.khan@chron.com

Features digital manager

Julie Takahashi

Preview designer

Clarissa Rubio
Gladys Ramirez

Preview advertising

Paula Phillips, 713-362-2514,
paula.phillips@chron.com

On the cover

The Houston Cinema Arts
Festival returns.
Illustration by
Getty Images.

1. Bruce Robison

Singer-songwriter Bruce Robison emerges from his The Bunker studio in Lockhart for his first show here in a while. The Bandera native has kept busy of late, making duets records with wife Kelly Willis, doing some of his own recordings and also putting out singles, albums and videos on his Next Waltz label, which is dedicated to promoting some of the best songwriters in Texas. The third album in his anthology series — fittingly titled “The Next Waltz Vol. 3” — is due at month’s end with new songs by Robison and Willis, Charley Crockett, Robert Ellis, David Ramirez, Shinyribs and more. His show will also stream live via mcgonigels.com.

When: 7 p.m. Nov. 6

Where: McGonigel’s Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk

Details: \$200 for a table of four; 713-528-5999, mcgonigels.com

Andrew Dansby

2. Wilco

Two decades after its release, Wilco’s “Summerteeth” remains a favorite among the band’s faithful. Lyrically dark, melodically sugary, the album included several songs that have been live staples for years. And a new edition of “Summerteeth” is out this week with a disc of demos, alternative takes and new songs and two discs comprising a live show in Colorado from 1999.

Where: Streaming services and music retail

Andrew Dansby

3. Frame X Frame Film Fest

Gotta see a film about dance? The place to be each weekend this month is the Houston Ballet Drive-In, where Frame Dance Production’s third annual Frame X Frame Film Fest is going big. The festival will screen 50 dance-themed movies with audio via FM radio, ranging from the classic MGM



Gary Miller / FilmMagic

musical “Singin’ in the Rain” to Austin choreographer Allison Orr’s award-winning 2012 documentary “Trash Dance” (a heartwarming production starring sanitation department crews and trucks) to “Best of Screen” shows of short dance-for-camera performances by choreographers from around the world.

When: 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, through Dec. 5

Where: 601 Preston

Details: \$10 per car, in advance only; houstonballet.org

Molly Glentzer

4. ‘Honky Tonk Laundry’

This production of Roger Bean’s new musical comedy was originally going to open on stage in Houston and was in previews in March when the pandemic closures hit. Now, it’s back in virtual form and will be broadcast live from the Rochelle and Max Levit Stage at The Gordy



Amitava Sarkar

Nov. 10-15. The play tells the story of two women who turn a laundromat into a honky-tonk. Some of the songs featured are “I Fall to Pieces” and “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’.”

Where: Livestreaming 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10-13, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14-15.

Details: \$25; to register and receive the event link, please visit StagesHouston.com.

Cary Darling

5. ‘2001: A Space Odyssey’

Stanley Kubrick’s 1968 epic about the great arc of humanity, from our prehistoric past to our interstellar future, remains as vital and sweeping as ever. It still demands to be seen on the big screen, and you can do that Friday at the Alamo Drafthouse in Katy.

Details: 7 p.m. Friday at Alamo Drafthouse LaCenterra, Katy; \$12; drafthouse.com/houston.

Cary Darling

H-TOWN BLUES FESTIVAL

The 14th annual H-Town Blues Festival will feature performances by Pokey Bear, Sir Charles Jones, Calvin Richardson, Tucka, Roi Anthony and Melvia “Chick” Rodgers-Williams.

When: 7 p.m. Nov. 6

Where: NRG Arena, 1 NRG Parkway

Details: \$49-\$125; nrgpark.com

FESTIVAL CHICANO PRESENTS LITTLE JOE Y LA FAMILIA

Festival Chicano will present a virtual performance by Grammy Award-winning artist Little Joe y La Familia. The festival reflects on the artistic creativity that has developed in the Chicano cultural experience after centuries of influence from native peoples, Mexico, Europeans and the U.S. The event is free and will be livestreamed on Miller Outdoor Theatre’s Facebook page, YouTube account and website.

When: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6

Details: milleroutdoortheatre.com

‘LOVE CAN MOVE THE WORLD,’ WITH MICHAEL GOTT

The Texas Medical Center Orchestra and Miller Outdoor Theatre present “Love Can Move the World,” an evening of uplifting music featuring Michael Gott. The event is free and will be livestreamed on Miller Outdoor Theatre’s Facebook page, YouTube account and website.

When: 7 p.m. Nov. 7

Details: milleroutdoortheatre.com

‘CAPTAIN MARVEL’

The Drive-In at Sawyer Yards screens “Captain Marvel.” Doors for this screening will open at

FAMILY FUN



THE TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL HOSTS
“HEROES AND VILLAINS” THIS WEEKEND.

Elizabeth Conley / Staff photographer

6:30 p.m. Each vehicle will be assigned a parking space upon arrival. Cinema snacks will be available for purchase and attendees are welcome to bring food and drinks.

When: 7:15 p.m. Nov. 9

Where: 2301 Summer

Details: \$28-\$35; rooftopcinemaclub.com

‘BODY WORLDS & THE CYCLE OF LIFE’

The exhibition shows human bodies preserved by the technique of plastination, invented by the German anatomist Gunther von Hagens.

When: Through May 31

Where: Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive

Details: \$21-\$30; hmns.org

GALVESTON

GALVESTON ISLAND HISTORIC PLEASURE PIER

The Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier features family-oriented attractions, including rides, midway games, a wide selection of food venues and retail shops.

When: 4-9 p.m. Friday, noon-9 p.m. Saturday and noon-8 p.m. Sunday

Where: 2501 Seawall Blvd.

Details: \$19.99-\$26.99; pleasurepier.com

KEMAH

KEMAH BOARDWALK: MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS SALUTE

During the celebration, all members of the military and first responders in uniform or with proper ID or badge will receive 50 percent off All-Day All Ride Passes, Stingray Reef and the Boardwalk Beast, 25 percent off Fanta-Sea Cruises and at retail stores and 10 percent off at all restaurants and the Boardwalk Inn.

When: Nov. 7-11

Where: 215 Kipp

Details: kemahboardwalk.com

SUGAR LAND

HALL OF PALEONTOLOGY

Arranged in chronological order, the exhibition features several dinosaurs, including a triceratops, ankylosaurus and stegosaurus, as well as many fossils from the Paleozoic era. The large collection includes trilobites, extinct arthropods, stenopterygius and a sea crocodile.

When: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Where: 13016 University Blvd.

Details: \$10-\$13; hmns.org/hmns-at-sugar-land

NOLA NIGHTS

An outdoor concert at Sugar Land Town Square, featuring music from the New Orleans Hustlers Brass Band.

When: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6

Where: 15958 City Walk

Details: sugarlandtownsquare.com

TODD MISSION

TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL: HEROES AND VILLAINS

The Texas Renaissance Festival presents a heroes and villains themed weekend. All tickets must be purchased in advance online.

When: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Where: 21778 FM 1774

Details: \$15-\$30; texrenfest.com

ana.khan@cbron.com

FAMILY OUTING

MOVIE NIGHT GETS BIG-SCREEN TREATMENT

BY ALLISON BAGLEY | CORRESPONDENT

As movie theater chains put into place safety measures such as staggered seating and seat sanitizing between showtimes, reps say they recognize there are families who aren't comfortable returning to a traditional auditorium setting.

In response, VIP-style full-theater booking is being offered at new, more approachable price points.

Chanda Brashears, Cinemark's vice president of investor and public relations, says that while private auditorium booking has long been an option for corporate events and other gatherings, the average family has likely never experienced the big screen in such a manner.

Cinemark's new private-theater booking starts at \$99 and accommodates 10 to 50 people. It is priced to be "a tremendous bargain" compared to pre-pandemic moviegoing, Brashears says, referencing how families are sharing the cost and taking advantage of the chain's current discounted pricing on concessions.

"You maintain your trusted bubble, and you have this very luxurious upscale celebrity experience that you likely would not have been able to justify having before COVID," she says.

Parents tell her the novelty of booking a private theater allows their children to experience cult



CINEMARK IS MARKETING THEIR AUDITORIUMS FOR

BOOKING BY FAMILIES AND SMALL GROUPS OF FRIENDS.

Cinemark

film classics for the first time on the big screen, such as "Back to the Future" and "Jurassic Park."

In addition to sports teams that have booked theaters to livestream games, she says private bookings are popular with groups of teens who "dress up like the red-carpet experience."

Popcorn for two

Booking a private screening of 1996's "Romeo + Juliet," one couple recently celebrated their wedding anniversary by rewatching

their first date movie, says Robert Saucedo of Alamo Drafthouse in Katy.

Others are using the chain's new private-theater pricing, which starts at \$150, for karaoke nights, family reunions, kids' birthday parties and video game challenges.

For the latter, guests bring their own game consoles, laptops and controllers to face off with one another "on a huge, gigantic screen in a once-in-a-lifetime

experience," Saucedo says.

Families reserve theaters to screen a film in private or with their "pods," he says — those families and neighbors with whom they have isolated throughout quarantine.

Rolling out the red carpet

At iPic, located in River Oaks District, pricing for a private-cinema experience through the end of the year is \$150 Monday through Friday for a party of 20, plus a \$20 per person food and beverage

minimum. The promotion includes a complimentary popcorn per guest.

Families can choose from more than 500 titles for "a luxury experience you cannot replicate at home when watching a movie," says Meaghan Troast, senior director of marketing.

For her part, Tonya Mangels of Studio Movie Grill says while the chain's new private-theater pricing has been booked for groups of two up to 100, the average party size is 20.

What that tells her is "it's less about price and more about ... feeling comfortable," she says.

"I think the main factor that's driving the interest is the safety, social distancing and the access to a VIP experience that the average person hasn't been able to reserve before," Mangels says.

"People want to have less stops or less outings," she says, referencing the Citycentre theater's full dinner menu.

Private-theater booking is here to stay, she thinks, beyond the health crisis.

"I think it will be part of the new normal," she says. "We're preparing for general changes in consumer behavior and how we can continue to evolve as a brand ... to meet customers where they're at."

Allison Bagley is a Houston writer.

SEASONAL

NEW HOLIDAY LIGHT PARK IS READY TO DAZZLE

BY MOLLY GLENTZER | STAFF WRITER

Honk if you love safely distanced holiday dance parties on wheels.

The creators of the Light Park, a new drive-through Christmas light experience in Spring, ask only that you bust your moves from the waist up, without getting out of your car. Characters named DJ Snowflake, Pixel Penguin, Barry Bear and Santa will be spinning the turntables on an FM radio station.

Featuring more than a million computer-controlled LED pixel lights along a 1-mile route that snakes through the Hurricane Harbor Splashtown parking lot, the Light Park's attractions include what the owners say is the world's largest light tunnel — a 700-foot-long structure that could put those psychedelic-soap disco car washes we love to shame.

Because the programmed lights evolve continuously, no two drive-throughs will be quite the same.

Although the experience was designed by a Los Angeles team that has created light spectacles for Coachella concerts, the Burning Man Festival and Las Vegas' Electric Daisy Carnival, the park is the brainchild of three entrepreneurs who also are in the less flashy business of real estate development.



THE LIGHT PARK OFFERS A DRIVE-THROUGH HOLIDAY

EXPERIENCE DESIGNED TO DELIGHT THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

Brett Coomer / Staff photographer

Matt Johnson, Jasen Coots and Joe White are partners in Blackstone Homes, based in College Station, and Amstead Development. They seem to have an uncanny sense of timing. They founded Blackstone in 2008, the year the U.S. real estate market crashed. They dreamed up the Light Park idea before they knew how COVID-19 safety issues would derail a lot of holiday plans this year, Johnson says. "We just wanted to create some-

thing a little different. We hatch a lot of crazy plans. Life is about experiences, right?"

Two of the three partners have children, and they remember loving Santa's Wonderland, a holiday theme park near College Station that began as a drive-through when they were young, Johnson says. (That attraction is still open and wildly popular, but not open to cars. Visitors take carriages and hayrides to view the sights.)

Johnson said he was not aware that a similar drive-through park with a tunnel, Lights Alive!, debuted last year in San Antonio and reopens Nov. 20. That one, ironically, was created by a software engineer whose name is also Matt Johnson.

Reality TV show fans with good memories might recall seeing the San Antonio Johnson family during Season 2 season two of ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" six years ago.

THE LIGHT PARK

When: 5:30-10 p.m. Nov. 5-Dec. 31

Where: 21300 Interstate 45 N., Spring (at Spring Cypress Road)

Details: \$35 per car in advance, \$40 at gate (no limos, buses, RVs or trailers); thelightpark.com

Their pixel display, which might have been the first on a home, was such a smash hit they had to take it down the next year because it brought traffic jams to their neighborhood. But a business was born, and their Living Light Shows company has since dazzled visitors to the San Antonio Zoo, the River Walk and Dignowity Park with animated displays synced to dubstep and other electronic dance music.

In some ways, building a light park "was really not far off from the construction world," says Houston's Matt Johnson.

And the timing might just work to their advantage. "During these trying times, it is important to provide a fun and safe environment for families during the holidays," Johnson says. "Our team has created an atmosphere that is more than a light show; our park is a memorable, one-of-a-kind experience."

molly.glentzer@chron.com

BURGER FRIDAY

NO REASON TO BE BLUE AT ALICE BLUE

BY ALISON COOK | STAFF WRITER

I already knew — or strongly suspected — that Brandi Key's double-double at Alice Blue, Claire Smith's successor bistro to Shade, would be a worthy entrant in Burger Friday's chef-burger category.

I have long admired Key's deft, graceful touch with everything from Italian food (Coppa, Coppa Osteria), to seafood (the late, lamented SaltAir), to homey Texas-style Southern (Punk's). I knew from experience she would send out a burger I'd enjoy eating.

But I will confess to an ulterior motive. Key's menu at Alice Blue in the Heights is such an inviting mix of all those genres she does so well, I had a feeling I would come home with a treasure trove of extras to see me through the week.

Here's how it went down.

PRICE: \$15 for the double-double cheeseburger with fresh-cut fries.

ORDERING: I hoped to order online, but that did not appear as an option on Alice Blue's website, which advises calling ahead for pickup. They do not offer curbside service. I have since clicked the "order pickup" tab on the Google box that pops up for Alice Blue during search, and it took me to a menu and allowed me to start filling a cart — the same strange phenomenon I encountered last week at MDK Noodles.



Alison Cook / Staff

Instead of calling, I decided to show up at the restaurant's neon-lit sidewalk pickup window, where I placed my order, paid by credit card (no cash!) and window shopped up and down the 200 block of West 19th Street while my food was prepared. In about 15 minutes, it was neatly packed and ready to go.

ARCHITECTURE: No salad stuff. On a toasted challah bun goes a slather of mayo and chopped onion, followed by a half-inch beef patty, cheddar, another beef patty, more cheddar, some super-meaty bacon

slices and slices of sharp, lively dill pickle with the bounce of house-made. Oh yeah, a little more mayo to finish things off.

QUALITY: If you are one of those burger purists who want the beef to be able to speak its piece, this one's for you. The beef flavor fairly bloomed, unsullied by the bells and whistles of modern burgerdom. Choosing laid-back mayo as the sole condiment was a subtle choice, and unusual in Houston. Yet there was enough sour pickle bite, salty cheese onion savor to highlight the

ground beef.

It was swell beef, too: griddled to a good, firm sear that still allowed for a flush of pink inside — just the degree of doneness I like, although nobody asked and I hadn't specified. Expert and respectful cooking, much appreciated. So was the house-made challah bun, with a soft crumb that stood up to the job without poufing into ratio-busting territory.

Can we talk about size? This double-double stood the height of my palm. I swear it could feed two people of modest appetite, or one

ALICE BLUE

Where: 250 W. 19th

Details: 713-864-2050; alice-bluehouston.com; Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

glutton. Not going to say which category I fall into.

OOZE RATING: Average. The patties were juicy but not spurty.

LETTER GRADE: A

VALUE: Decent, considering quality and sandwich size, plus the flock of fries.

BONUS POINTS: I could pick from Alice Blue's thoughtful list of beer, wine and cocktails to go. So I went home with a modest plastic cupful of Spanish garnacha, all cooked black fruit and resinous herbs, its lid crisscrossed shut with blue painter's tape. It was housed in cardboard drinks caddy so as not to fall over in the car. (My carpet still smells of spilled lemonade from months back.)

MINUS POINTS: These go to me, and me alone, for forgetting to apply the lesson I learned a few weeks ago at Elliott's Table. Good, fresh-cut french fries are meant to be eaten immediately, even if it means opening the takeout box and

Burger continues on D17

MUSIC

THE BLACK COMPOSER WHO MADE MOZART JEALOUS

BY CHRIS GRAY | CORRESPONDENT

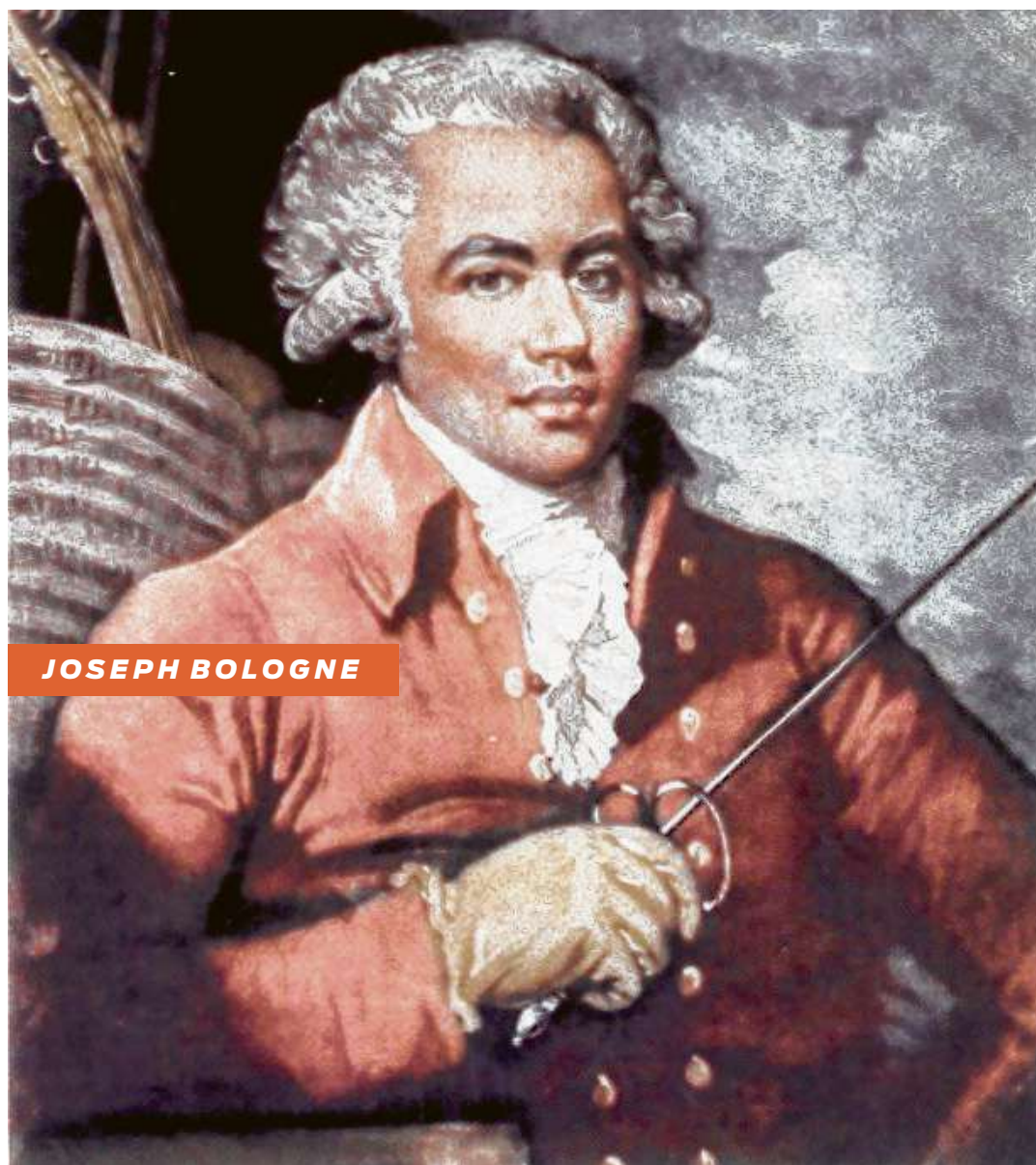
The improbable details of Joseph Bologne's life make him seem more like a character out of a novel. He actually was, too, as the subject of Roger de Beauvoir's "Le Chevalier de Saint-George." Published in 1840, the novel took its name from the title bestowed upon Bologne by King Louis XV.

To be sure, Bologne (sometimes spelled Boulogne) was very real. He was a dashing swordsman, gifted athlete, valiant soldier, and brilliant musician and composer who became a sensation in 18th-century France. He was also Black.

Beyond those broad strokes, a pinch of salt is necessary — but Bologne's story is no less compelling for being partially, possibly, apocryphal.

"What is known is scantily and contradictorily documented, when not purely anecdotal," the New York Times wrote back in June, shortly after news broke that Searchlight Pictures is developing a film based on Bologne's life to be written by Stefani Robinson ("Atlanta") and directed by Stephen Williams (HBO's "Watchmen").

The wonder is that it took this long. Bologne is a fascinating character. He was born out of wedlock in the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe around 1745. His



JOSEPH BOLOGNE

Courtesy of ABO

father belonged to the aristocracy; his mother was enslaved. He moved to France about 10 years later, where, thanks to his father's connections, the young Bologne became a chamberlain to Louis XV.

He first made waves in French society with his swordsmanship, which earned Bologne the nickname "the god of arms." At one point, he was thought to be the nation's best fencer; the visiting John Adams wrote, "he will hit the button, any button, on the coat or waistcoat of the greatest Masters." He was also a celebrated swimmer, boxer, marksman and dancer.

Bologne's musical talents, meanwhile, supposedly drove Mozart into fits of jealousy. His skills on violin and harpsichord won him a spot in one of France's most prestigious orchestras, the Concert des Amateurs; soon enough, he became its musical director. He commissioned several symphonies from Franz Josef Haydn, which became known as the "Paris" symphonies, and was Marie Antoinette's music tutor for a spell.

But as successful as Bologne was, he also faced real discrimination. Under the so-called Code Noir, an array of restrictions on people of color in France, Black people were required to register

with the police, among other indignities. King Louis XVI nominated Bologne to become director of the Paris Opera in 1776, but some members of the company vetoed the idea because they refused to, they said, “submit to the orders of a mulatto.”

“Historically, it was absolutely more difficult for people of color to get work, or to be taken seriously, or to be seen as more than a novelty,” says Rebecca Zabinski, Houston Symphony’s director of artistic planning. “So I think that probably created a barrier there, because people seemed to treat the chevalier like a sensation.

“His music was wonderful, but also everybody’s talking about his sword skills and all of these other things,” she adds. “So I think that probably his race prevented him from being taken seriously as an artist and having more consistent support (from) people who wanted to keep his music (around).”

Demeaning nickname

Bologne went on to lead a regiment of Black soldiers during the French Revolution. He eventually fell out of favor with the court and died, penniless, in 1799. Because he lacked the kind of royal patronage or other sponsorship that might have better kept his music in circulation, only a few of his compositions have survived into the present day.

One that has is the Symphony No. 2 in D Major, which also served as the overture to Bologne’s opera “L’Amat anonyme” — and which the Houston Symphony will perform alongside Mozart’s “Jupiter” symphony this weekend.

According to Zabinski, Bologne’s music compares favorably with his far better-known contemporaries Mozart and



Charles Jean Robineau

In addition to his musical talent, composer Joseph Bologne was also known for his fencing skills.

Haydn. His style carries all the hallmarks of the era, especially his string parts — “I think you can hear his proclivity for string-writing especially,” she says.

“I think it’s just a really lovely way to tie the program together and, you know, showcase some lesser-known parts of (a) period that’s so familiar,” adds Zabinski. “Mozart’s ‘Jupiter’ is such a masterpiece, and one of the most well-known works in the repertoire, and there’s no reason that this charming overture shouldn’t be as well-known. It’s a great little work.”

The specter of Mozart so completely haunts his achievements that, in more recent times, Bologne has been saddled with the demeaning nickname of “Black Mozart.” Nothing could be further

from the truth, argues Zabinski.

“It minimizes his achievements and everything that makes him unique,” she says. “He just happened to be working at the same time as Mozart and composing in the same style. He had been doing his own thing before he ever met Mozart and before Mozart came to Paris, and it just seems sort of like Mozart happened across this guy who really had it going on.”

Mozart’s revenge?

Legend has it that Mozart, who had a frustrating experience in Paris while Bologne’s influence at court was at its zenith, created the villainous “Magic Flute” character of Monostatos to get back at Bologne. Traditionally depicted as a Moor who lusts after the

heroine Pamina, the Queen of the Night’s daughter, Monostatos eventually swears allegiance to the queen — a possible swipe at Bologne’s once-close relationship with Marie Antoinette.

“I mean, on the surface, it sure seems like something Mozart might have done,” says Zabinski. “He did know this guy, and he really was jealous, and with that kind of fire in him, it definitely seems plausible. Who’s to say, but it’s definitely an interesting theory, and an interesting story, and fits right in with the lore of Mozart.

“And also the lore of the chevalier,” she adds. “These are two fascinating guys — I wouldn’t put anything past either of them, you know?”

The violent, treacherous

HOUSTON SYMPHONY: MOZART’S JUPITER

When: 8 p.m. Nov. 7

Details: \$20 (livestream only); 713-224-7575; houstonsymphony.org

Monostatos presents modern opera companies with one of Mozart’s most problematic characters; some productions have even removed librettist Emanuel Schikaneder’s explicit references to race. (“Magic Flute” has also long been criticized as misogynist.) But as performing-arts organizations continue reckoning with centuries of inequity and racism, largely unsung figures like Bologne are ripe for rediscovery.

“I think that it’s really important as we think of the classical canon and how tied it is to white male power,” says Zabinski. “It makes perfect sense to try to shine a light on the exceptions to that rule — to women, to people of color like the chevalier, to people who are a little different than the faces that we traditionally think of in classical music.”

But correcting a grievous historical oversight is one thing. Now that the ground has finally begun to shift, preventing those lapses from recurring is an entirely different challenge.

“Who is (out) there today that is a chevalier that just has a couple of barriers in their path, and they could achieve so much if it weren’t for that?” wonders Zabinski. “I think there (are) far too many people for whom that’s the case — it makes it important for us to try to level the playing field, so that the next chevalier isn’t forgotten and can achieve everything that he or she is meant to achieve.”

Chris Gray is a Gaveston-based reporter.

REVIEW • MUSIC • PREVIEW • MUSIC • PREVIEW • MUSIC • PREVIEW

NEW VENUE

OUTDOOR SPACE BLOOMS IN THE HEIGHTS

BY LAWRENCE ELIZABETH KNOX | CORRESPONDENT

As stage lights illuminated the intimate space, vibrant sounds of jazz filled the air, and for a brief moment on a Sunday evening in late October, the reality of the ongoing pandemic seemed a distant memory.

Of course, mask and social-distancing mandates kept the small audience in check, but the music was live, not livestreamed, and that felt nothing short of magical.

The heartening evening at Houston's new P.E.T. Outdoor Theater, located in the backyard of musician Thomas Helton's Heights property, was a melodic reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the determination that radiates through the city's tight-knit arts community. The "Mini Jazz Fest," which featured the Houston Ensemble and the Jalen Baker Group, was the fourth event at the venue since it opened to a strictly limited number of ticket holders earlier in October.

"I've never been a big production person," said Helton, an acclaimed bassist, composer and frequent presenter, who established and operates the grassroots venture with fellow creatives Pin Lim and Edgar Guajardo. "I'm not trying to put on some grandiose, over-the-top thing. I just always envisioned having some sort of a stage where I could allow my peers



EDGAR GUAJARDO, FROM LEFT, THOMAS HELTON AND

PIN LIM CO-FOUNDED THE P.E.T. OUTDOOR THEATER.

Lawrence Elizabeth Knox / Contributor

and other artists an opportunity to perform."

The chance to fulfill this long-time dream finally came about during more recent months of semi-isolation, as such opportunities to perform remain scarce and very much needed.

The co-founders had already developed friendships, having been introduced to each other through different artistic avenues. About two decades ago, Lim, the owner of Forest Photography, took on a creative photo project high-

P.E.T. OUTDOOR THEATER
When: 7 p.m., Nov. 8: "Anything Goes" at Houston Fringe Festival; 7:30 p.m., Nov. 12-13: "iAZUCAR!" by Alas Dance Company; 7 p.m., Nov. 14: The Flamenco Poets Society presents "Queen of the Gypsies" documentary
Where: 733 Service
Details:
thepetoutdoortheater.com

lighting local jazz musicians, and Helton became his first subject.

Throughout the years, Lim has

continued to document the city's arts scene, regularly photographing performances for companies like Opera in the Heights, where Guajardo has served as technical director since 2018. The two men had met prior to this however, while Guajardo, now a lighting and scenic designer, was a student at the University of Houston, and they started working together four years ago at the Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston, where Helton has played several times alongside other area musicians and bands.

After having separate conversations with both Helton and Guajardo about their individual projects, it occurred to Lim that the trio should connect and explore possibilities that their combined talents could offer. Coincidentally, Guajardo had accumulated scraps of plywood while producing sets for Opera in the Heights, with which he too was interested in building an outdoor stage. He already owned the necessary lighting and software, and Helton's residence, where the musician hosted intimate house concerts pre-pandemic, boasts a large yard that proved perfectly suitable.

So, they stepped up to the plate, and the P.E.T. Outdoor Theater — an acronym based on the founders' first names — was born in a single August afternoon.

"What we're doing is terribly important," Helton said. "There was music during the Black Death. There was music during World War I and World War II. The beginning of jazz, the beginning of popular music happened during a war. This is the time. There is no downtime for us. We shine bright lights on the beautiful things and the ugly things. We don't get a break, and I think, if anything, we need to work harder."

Lawrence Elizabeth Knox is a Houston writer.

NEW FILMS

BY CARY DARLING
STAFF WRITER

Here are some of the new films being released in theaters or for streaming, rental or purchase this week.

“Action USA”

This Waco-shot, cult action film from 1989 is full of hammy acting and extraneous nudity, but it also has some cool “Cannonball Run”-style car chases and stunts. Unrated. Opens Nov. 6 at Alamo Drafthouse La Centera, Katy, and streaming through ondemand.drafthouse.com.

“Call Me Brother”

Port Neches native and new “Saturday Night Live” cast member Andrew Dismukes stars as a young man reunited with the sister he hasn’t seen since childhood. What happens when there are sparks between them? Unrated. Begins streaming Nov. 6 through various platforms.

“Chuck Leavell: The Tree Man”

This documentary looks at the career of the famed keyboard player who has worked with the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Allman Brothers Band, John Mayer and many more. Making appearances are Billy Bob Thornton, Miranda Lambert, Jimmy Carter and Mick Jagger, among others. Unrated. Opens Nov. 6 at Studio Movie Grill Pearland.

“Cinetracts ‘20”

“Cinetracts ‘20” is a compilation of new shorts by 20 filmmakers from around the world. Unrated. Begins streaming for free Nov. 11 through mfah.org/movienight.

“Citation”

Nigerian drama involving a high school student who takes on her school’s establishment when she accuses a popular teacher of rape. Unrated. Begins streaming Nov. 6 on Netflix.

“Crawford: The Man the South Forgot”

A look at the life of Anthony Crawford, a forgotten Black farmer in South Carolina in the early 20th century who became a local success story, something that stirred up hatred among his white neighbors. Unrated. Streaming on kweli.tv.



“JINGLE JANGLE: A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY”

Netflix

“The Dark and the Wicked”

Horror film in which something strange happens to a family gathering for the death of a loved one. Rated R. Opens Nov. 6 at Studio Movie Grill Pearland.

“Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge”

1995 Hindi-language romantic drama from India. Unrated. Opens Nov. 6 at AMC First Colony, Sugar Land.

“The Endless Trench (La Trincherá Infinita)”

Spanish action-adventure film about life in Spain in 1936 as fascism was poised to take power. This was a huge hit in Spain, collecting a wagonload of award wins and nominations. Unrated. Begins streaming Nov. 6 on Netflix.

“The Informer”

Joel Kinnaman, Rosamund Pike, Clive Owen, Common and Ana de Armas star in this action drama in which an ex-convict working undercover gets himself arrested again so that he can infiltrate gangsters at a maximum security prison. Unrated. Opens Nov. 6 at iPac Houston; Premiere Cinema 11, Galveston.

“Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey”

This holiday story, starring Forest Whitaker,

er, Ricky Martin, Keegan-Michael Key and Phylicia Rashad, is about an eccentric toymaker and an invention that could change the world. Rated R. Opens Nov. 6 at iPac Houston; begins streaming Nov. 13 on Netflix.

“Jungleland”

Charlie Hunnam and Jack O’Connell star in this drama about two brothers, one a hard-luck boxer and the other his trainer. Rated R. Opens Nov. 6 in theaters throughout Houston; begins streaming Nov. 10 on a variety of platforms.

“Kid Flicks”

Here’s a program of short films for children. Divided into three parts — “Kid Flicks 1” (for ages 5 and older), “Kid Flicks 2” (for ages 8 and older) and “Viva Kid Flicks!” (for ages 8 and older) — these works were featured in the New York International Children’s Film Festival. They cover a variety of styles, including animation, live action and documentaries. “Viva Kid Flicks!” is a program of Spanish-language shorts. Unrated. Begins streaming Nov. 12 at mfah.org/movienights.

“Keeping the Chaos Together”

Houston filmmaker Stacey Summers has produced this mental-health documentary that looks at the lives of several people dealing with anxiety, depression, obses-

sive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and bipolar disorder. Unrated. Streams 6:30 p.m. Nov. 12 at thehealthmuseum.org/event/keeping-chaos-together, followed by a panel discussion at 7:15 p.m.

“Kindred”

Horror-mystery thriller in which a pregnant woman who moves in with her boyfriend’s family after he suddenly dies. But she begins to think she has made a big mistake. Unrated. Opens Nov. 6 at iPac Houston; begins streaming Nov. 6 on various platforms.

“Let Him Go”

A retired sheriff and his wife, played by Kevin Costner and Diane Lane, who are still upset over the death of their son, must rescue their grandson from those who’ve abducted him. Rated R. Opens Nov. 6 in theaters across Houston.

“Mortal”

Norwegian action-adventure-fantasy film about a young man discovering he has God-like powers based on ancient Norwegian mythology. Rated R. Opens Nov. 6 at Studio Movie Grill Pearland.

“Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton”

Documentary about an Irish immigrant who came to the U.S. wanting to be a millionaire but ended up doing something more charitable. Rated PG. Opens Nov. 6 at Studio Movie Grill CityCentre, Houston.

“Proxima”

This film-fest favorite stars Eva Green as an astronaut preparing for a one-year mission aboard the International Space Station while dealing with what this will mean for herself and her family. Matt Dillon co-stars. Unrated. Begins streaming Nov. 6 on various platforms.

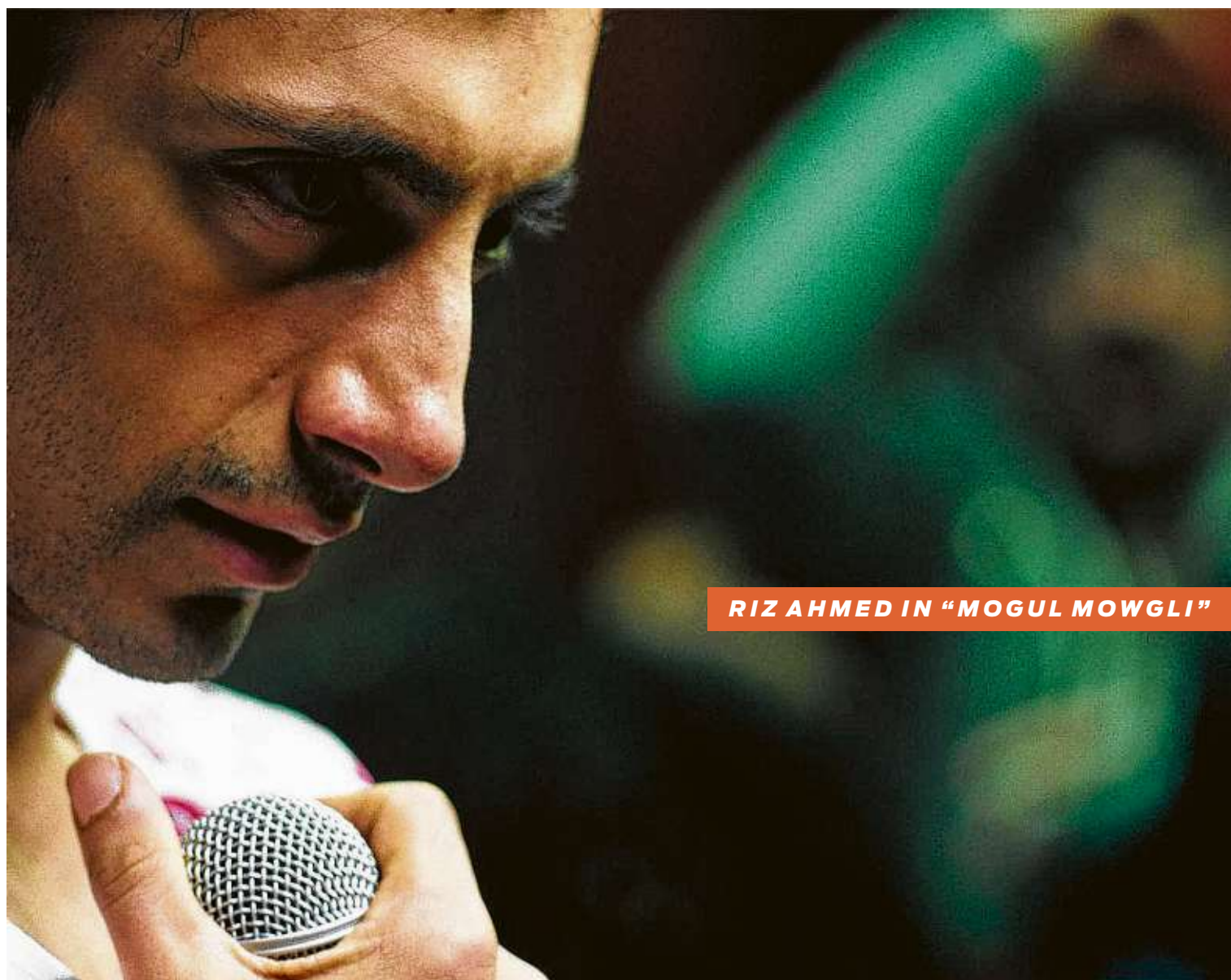
“True to the Game 2”

This is the sequel to the 2017 crime drama about a drug lord named Quadir. “TTG2” picks up after his death. Vivica A. Fox stars. Rated R. Opens Nov. 6 at theaters across Houston.

cary.darling@chron.com

WHAT TO WATCH AT THE CINEMA ARTS FESTIVAL

The opening-night slot goes to a movie made by one of Houston's own, director/writer Bassam Tariq, who grew up in Sugar Land. "Mogul Mowgli," an engrossing character study, stars Riz Ahmed ("Nightcrawler," "The Night Of") as a rising British Pakistani rapper who finds himself humbled by a debilitating illness. Ahmed delivers a strong performance and Tariq, in his first narrative feature, shows himself to be an original filmmaker with a distinctive point of view that ex-



Courtesy Houston Cinema Arts Festival

plores the space where South Asian and Anglo-American identities intersect. This will be followed by a Q&A between Tariq and Bun B.

5 p.m. Nov. 12 (virtual screening, film available for 48 hours only); 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12, Moonstruck Drive-In

'Shogun Assassin'

It's the 40th anniversary of this cult martial-arts classic, and what better way to see this sword-happy action flick than in a drive-in? Co-directed by Kenji Misumi, who made "The Last Samurai" in 1974, "Shogun Assassin" — about a shogun and his 4-year-old son who become killers for hire — is a slice-and-dice good time.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 13, Showboat Drive-In

'Ema'

Chilean director Pablo Larraín makes movies that veer in unexpected directions. His 2016 film "Jackie" was less of a biopic of Jackie Kennedy and more of a poetic meditation on being Jackie Kennedy. Similarly, this drama, about a couple who are also dancers (Gael García Bernal, an impressive Mariana Di Girólamo) wrestling with guilt and anger after giving up their troublesome adopted son, is less concerned with naturalism and realism than creating a series of memorable set pieces. Presented in conjunction with Houston Ballet.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 (virtual screening, available for 48 hours)

Remembering DJ Screw

Well-known DJ Red offers a salute to Houston's "Chopped and Screwed" sound with a free, live DJ set from Screwed Up Records. Separately, there's



Courtesy Houston Cinema Arts Festival

Nigerian brothers Arie and Chuko Esiri co-directed "Eyimofe (This Is My Desire)."



Music Box Films

Gael García Bernal and Mariana Di Girólamo star in "Ema."

a virtual tribute and panel discussion about DJ Screw a few days later.

(DJ Red) 9:30 p.m. Nov. 13 (virtual); (tribute) 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 (virtual)

'The 24th'

Kevin Willmott's compelling chronicle of the events that led up to the rebellion by Black soldiers stationed in Houston during World War I was released

earlier this year, but it gets another chance for exposure here. Trai Byers, Mykelti Williamson and Thomas Haden Church star.

3:30 p.m. Nov. 14 (virtual screening, available for 48 hours)

'Night of the Kings'

Of the films previewed, this is the most strikingly original. Ivory Coast director Philippe Lacôte is garnering a lot of attention — including wins or nominations at film festivals in Venice, Toronto, Chicago and Reykjavik — for this poetic drama about a young man, sent to a notorious prison, who is given an ultimatum: Become a storyteller, spinning tales for the other prisoners, or else. Lacôte is something of a storyteller himself, incorporating dance and fantastical imagery

into his prison drama.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 15 (virtual screening, available for four hours); 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22 (virtual screening, available for four hours); 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22 (drive-in screening presented with the Houston Ballet which will also be showing a short film before the feature)

'Eyimofe (This Is My Desire)'

Fraternal Nigerian directors Arie and Chuko Esiri have made a movie that falls outside the boundaries of what has been described as Nollywood. They forsake a traditional narrative in telling their story about two residents of Lagos who dream of leaving the country — one for Spain, the other for Italy — for a

Cinema continues on D14



Helmut Newton Foundation

“Helmut Newton: The Bad and the Beautiful” explores the famed photographer’s works, including this photo of David Lynch and Isabella Rossellini.

41st Annual **November 6, 2020**

Festival Chicano

Little Joe y La Familia

“Celebrating 41 years of Cultura”

Miller Outdoor Theatre
Hermann Park
Houston, Texas

Gratis
Free

Friday, Nov. 6th • 7:30 pm

A special virtual concert on milleroutdoortheatre.com,
facebook and youtube.

No audience allowed at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

Dedicated to all the victims of Covid.

Cinema from page D13

more contemplative character study in which the sprawling, chaotic city itself is one of the characters.

4 p.m. Nov. 16 (virtual screening, available for 48 hours)

‘One of These Days’

Joe Cole and Carrie Preston star in this drama, from German director Bastian Gunther, that is set during a Texas hands-on contest in which competitors have to keep their hands on a pickup truck.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 (virtual screening, available for 48 hours)

‘Helmut Newton: The Bad and the Beautiful’

Gero von Boehm dives headlong into the world of famed photographer



Helmut Newton and his striking images that straddled the worlds of fashion, art and outrage.

4 p.m. Nov. 19 (virtual screening, available for 48 hours)

‘Ammonite’

Francis Lee made one of the best movies of 2017 with “God’s Own Country,” and this 19th-century romantic drama, starring Saoirse Ronan and Kate Winslet, could be his ticket to wider recognition.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 19, Moonstruck Drive-In

‘Horton Foote: The Road to Home’

Texas writer Horton Foote, who wrote the screenplays for “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “Tender Mercies,” is the subject of Anne Rapp’s documentary. The film has been described as a love letter to Foote and his hometown of Wharton.

4 p.m. Nov. 20 (virtual

HOUSTON CINEMA ARTS FESTIVAL

When: Nov. 12-22

Where: Online and local drive-ins

Details: For the full schedule, go to cinemahtx.org

screening)

‘Friday I’m in Love: A Night at Numbers’

Judging from an excerpt, this documentary is not just a celebration of the long-running Houston dance club Numbers but a look at its Montrose neighborhood, the gay community and the emerging punk scene of the ‘70s and ‘80s. This promises to be both a memory rush for those who were around at the start and a good history lesson for those who only know Numbers in its current iteration.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 20 (livestream)

cary.darling@cbron.com



Neon

Kate Winslet and Saoirse Ronan star in “Ammonite.”

REVIEW

COSTNER, LANE RIDE HIGH IN 'LET HIM GO'

BY MICK LASALLE | STAFF WRITER

Here's something that you may not know unless you either grew up on a ranch or watched movies: If a horse comes back without its rider, that's not merely a subject for concern. It's an indication of disaster. Someone is either seriously injured or dead.

"Let Him Go" begins on a ranch in Montana, where three generations live. There's Margaret (Diane Lane) and George (Kevin Costner), a former sheriff. There's their grown son and his wife, and the young couple has a newborn. Everything seems idyllic, aside from the minor irritations that come with proximity. Then one morning, the son's horse comes galloping back to the house. It's a well-made scene that signals that this will be a movie of many well-made scenes.

Through a window, Margaret catches sight of the horse, and her face drops in that familiar Diane Lane way, like the earth has opened up beneath her feet. George gets on his own horse and finds the body of his son, the victim of a freak riding accident. And something in Costner's expression tells us that he's not only being flooded with grief and horror at the sight, but that he's already thinking ahead as to how he'll break the news to the family.



DIANE LANE AND KEVIN COSTNER

STAR IN "LET HIM GO."

Focus Features

In that moment, we understand this guy. In an unfussy and instinctive way, George assumes responsibility. He cares about other people, and if something has to be done, he does it.

Soon we come to understand Margaret, too. Three years pass, the daughter-in-law remarries, and one fine afternoon, while driving down the main street of

walking down the street. They look like a nice, happy young family — then the new husband wallops the boy, and the wife, too. Margaret watches, as if thinking, "No way. He's not getting away with this."

Based on the novel by Larry Watson and written and directed by Thomas Bezucha, "Let Him Go" is a quietly intense film that, from the first moments, moves inevitably toward a noisier climactic intensity. Character and circumstances are pushing this older couple in the direction of trouble. Neither wants trouble, but these are people who can't leave things alone.

So when, within days, Margaret finds out that the young family has disappeared — that the new husband has relocated their daughter-in-law and grandson to North Dakota — she decides to follow them and try to get the boy back. How she plans to do that is anybody's guess, but George, knowing there's no talking her out of this, agrees to accompany her.

Even at its calmest moments, "Let Him Go" instills an uneasy sense of something wrong, of something evil afoot, of bad people operating in the shadows. Later, when we start meeting those people, they don't disappoint.

Lesley Manville is pure, self-

satisfied malevolence as Blanche Weboy, the matriarch of the family that George and Margaret's daughter-in-law has stupidly married into. She's cruel for fun and can do anything — Manville conveys the radiant awfulness of absolute power.

Manville's aura of impunity and omnipotence makes Costner and Lane's work easier, in that we fully understand the dilemma of their characters. They have no power, and they know these awful Weboys are about to ruin the life of George and Margaret's grandson. The Weboys are first going to abuse this child, and then they're going to turn him into a malicious maniac, like the rest of the clan. As viewers, we share in the helplessness and frustration of the grandparents, and this gives us a tremendous rooting interest.

In the end, "Let Him Go" is like a Southern Gothic, only set in the Northwest. It's just a genre movie that delivers the goods, but the restraint and emotional insight of the direction and the quality of the performances bring it up an essential extra notch. Along the way, it shows us that there's no limit to what Manville can do, and it reminds us of what we've always liked about Costner and Lane.

mlasalle@sfcchronicle.com

"LET HIM GO"
Rated R: for violence
Running time: 114 minutes
Where: Opens Nov. 6 throughout Houston
 (out of 5)

their small town, Margaret sees her little grandson, the daughter-in-law and her new husband

REVIEW

BOXING FILM 'JUNGLELAND' HITS HARD

BY MARK KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When a small indie film uses the title "Jungleland," it's natural to expect that Bruce Springsteen's famous tune will be heard. But, as with much of Max Winkler's moody, tender movie, the answer is yes and no. There's Bruce, but not the song you expected.

"Jungleland" is about two brothers trying to rise out of unrelenting misery. It's also a road trip movie and a love story. It has nods to "Rocky," "The Transporter," "Midnight Run," "Pulp Fiction" and even the novel "Of Mice and Men." And yet it's moving and allegorical, lifted by wonderful acting.

Jack O'Connell of "Unbroken" plays Lion Kaminski, a boxer forced by circumstances to fight underground in bare-knuckle bouts. His big brother Stan ("Sons of Anarchy" star Charlie Hunnam) is his cornerman, coach, masseuse, sparring partner and bookie. Lion does the fighting while the business is all Stan's. One has the muscle, one has the brains.

We meet them in New England as squatters, fighting bouts for a few hundred bucks a night and working at a sewing factory. But they have dreams — handmade Italian suits and silk shirts. "I can see our future when I close my eyes," Stan tells his brother.



CHARLIE HUNNAM, SECOND FROM RIGHT,

AND JACK O'CONNELL, RIGHT, STAR IN "JUNGLELAND."

Paramount Pictures

They're underdogs who even own a dog, a whippet called Ash.

When a fight goes bad, they're on the hook for thousands of dollars they don't have. Mobsters offer them an alternative to getting their legs broken: They can drive cross-country to enter a no-holds-barred bare-knuckle tournament called "Jungleland" for \$100,000 — but only if they also transport an enigmatic young lady (Jessica Barden) to Reno, Nev.

If two is company, then three is a crowd, and the introduction of the girl destabilizes the brothers' tight bond. She has her own motives but she makes them see each other. "You're not his pos-

session," she tells the boxer. "People underestimate you." Those two soon flirt and that threatens to tear the brothers — and the plan — apart.

It leads to a memorable showdown in a diner. "You use me," Lion tells Stan. Stan replies: "I do everything." Stan punches back, metaphorically: "I fight guys two on one in parking lots so you don't get another felony."

Winkler's directing is top-notch, familiar with the nooks and crannies of ugly and dark modern life — truck stops and abandoned houses, crappy bathrooms, bus depots and basements. He doesn't glamorize the bloody results of boxing, either. He has a

way of showing tenderness and brutality in alternate scenes, with classical music layered into the basest of scenes.

The script — by Theodore B. Bressman, David Branson Smith and Winkler — never spoon-feeds emotion or information, letting naturalism rule. One lovely line is uttered by Stan about his brother: "He's special. And I'll never know what's that like."

There's only one clunky scene, in a poolroom with some rich kids, that's reminiscent of "Good Will Hunting" in which the older brother utters to the snobs the unlikely needy, "You don't know what it's like to suffer" and "Do you know what it's like to be in pain?"

"JUNGLELAND"

Rated R: for violence, strong sexuality and language

Running time: 93 minutes

Where: Opening Nov. 6 at iPic Houston; Star Cinema Grill, Baybrook Mall, Friendswood; Studio Movie Grill 12, Pearland; Star Cinema Grill Vintage Park, Houston; Star Cinema Grill 8, Missouri City; Star Cinema Grill, Richmond; Star Cinema Grill Springwoods, Spring; begins streaming Nov. 10 through video-on-demand and digital platforms.
(out of five)

This very American fable has been blessed with three remarkable performances, two from England. Hunnam, as the dreamer, is all nervous energy, hunting and bluffed confidence. O'Connell, as the puncher, has no airs or facade, just a wounded man clinging to hope. And Barden is perfect as a young woman who knows more than she lets on but reveals kindness under her danger.

The story comes to a boil — perhaps a little too neatly — when the fates of all three are determined in one huge moment. At this occasion, it's clearly time for Mr. Springsteen, the troubadour of the forgotten, but "Jungleland" doesn't play. Instead, his "Dream Baby Dream." It's not what you expect but it's beautifully used. That's apt for this fine film.



Alison Cook / Staff

The deviled eggs are a mustardy delight.

Burger from page D7

eating the potatoes as you drive home.

After 20-some minutes, the cardboard container in which the fries were housed, snuggled up against the hot burger, had collected a skein of tiny water droplets inside. The fries had gone chewy and a bit listless, which killed me — because I could tell they had been swell at one point. (They might have survived better had the container been pierced with a knife or fork, the way they do it at Just GRK and Becks Prime.)

STUFF FOR LATER: What a haul! I always loved chef Key's seafood salads at SaltAir, so I got her Crab Louie version with a Houston hot-tish-pink dressing that really clicked. The salad kept surprisingly well in the fridge overnight. Just think of it as a luxury wedge.

I also got a quartet of her

mustardy deviled eggs for breakfast or snacking; and a coconut "pie" that was more of an ethereal custard tart with fat shards of toasted coconut on top. I meant to save half for later, but suddenly it was all gone.

I transferred my heirloom tomato salad with burrata into a glass container and left it to marinate overnight, then rejoiced in the big, bold flavor of the fruit, which I had been craving. I knew Key wouldn't settle for the pale, flavorless tomatoes that sometimes pass for "heirloom," and I was right.

Oh, and did I mention my Last Word cocktail? Served shaken and up, this Prohibition classic rode home in its plastic glass and kept beautifully until the next evening's happy hour — a tight, bracing combo of gin, Maraschino and the herbal shiver of Chartreuse liqueur that makes it sing.

LOCAL COLOR: Rambling

up and down the 200 block of 19th Street was an unexpected pleasure. I checked out the last customers in the hipster barber shop; the young parents dandling a baby in front of the corner sweets parlor; the young and not-so-young gentlemen populating an old-fashioned cigar lounge that looked like some sepia-lit Netflix historical drama set.

Everybody who passed me was wearing a mask, I am pleased to say.

Then I crossed the street to pay my respects to the late, great Macario Ramirez, whose magical Casa Ramirez folk art shop is passing its first All Souls Day without him.

I stood for a long while in front of the sparkly, towering ofrenda they construct for Day of the Dead every year, basking in its vivid colors, imagining I felt Macario's presence, loving my city and its souls.

food@chron.com



Raise a Glass to Texas.

Enjoy a virtual wine tasting from the comfort and safety of your own home, as our hosts guide you through a handpicked selection of fantastic Texas wines.

Register today at chron.com/tastings

NOV. 19 | 6PM

JOIN US FOR AN UNBELIEVABLE EVENING OF
VIRTUAL WINE TASTING SPONSORED BY H-E-B.

WORD SLEUTH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. ©2020 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Thursday's unlisted clue: **MARIA**.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: **FLOATING OBJECT ANCHORED IN WATER**.

Algae
Debris
Ferry
Fog
Houseboat
Ice
Oil
Reflections
Ships
Skier
Snakes
Surfers
Swimmers
Water fowl
Waves

FOUND ON THE WATER

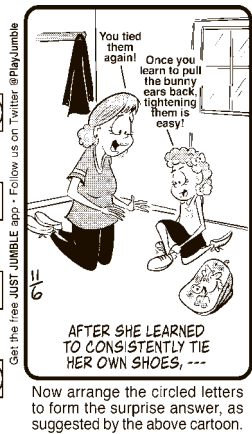
F D A X U R O L J G D A X S V
S P N K I F C A X V R H N S Q
O L J H E C A X V T E O R P N
L J H F D B Y X V T I U R S P
O M K I G E D I B T K S Z R X
S P I H S W U T C R S E Q E O
N I L J N I G E F E Y B D M C
A Y R E A G L A V X R O L M W
Y O U B K F V A G T R A S I R
P O N L E L W O F R E T A W O
K J I R S D F S R E F R U S G

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HUCOC
GNIES
RAAYIV
TUWALO

Yesterday's Jumbles: OPERA KNACK CRUNCH DILUTE
Answer: Pickups were introduced in the 1920s. Since then, people have been able to — KEEP ON TRUCKIN'



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. ©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

7		9		3		4		1
		3	1			2		
			9	4	6		8	
4								2
	3		2	5	8			
		2			5	1		
3		8		7		6		9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/06

©2020 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

©2020 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

R C Q S N Z W M M Z A E E W U Q X
X Z W M M W X T F C A Z Q M F Z R D P
A O M W Z L Q D S W, J A T E X M U W U Q L W
J A Z D Q D W M N U W Z O A D D W N?

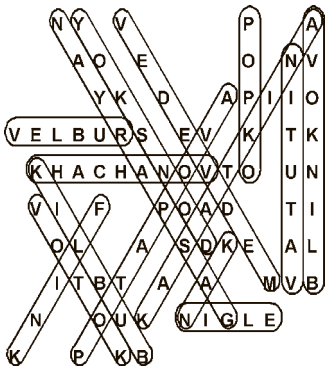
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals C

ANSWER: If actress Rolle had dressed up for a spring observance, would she have worn an Esther bonnet?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1	6	7	9	8	3	5	2	4
5	3	9	4	2	1	7	8	6
8	2	4	5	6	7	1	3	9
7	4	6	1	5	2	8	9	3
3	5	2	8	7	9	4	6	1
9	1	8	3	4	6	2	7	5
2	8	5	6	9	4	3	1	7
4	9	1	7	3	8	6	5	2
6	7	3	2	1	5	9	4	8

RUSSIAN TENNIS PROS



M	E	D	A	L		B	E	T		E	M	C	E	E					
A	L	O	N	E		A	L	I		G	A	L	E	N					
C	H	I	N	S	T	R	A	P		E	L	E	C	T					
S	I	T	U		A	R	T		A	S	I	A							
					I	N	F	I	E	L	D	T	A	R	P	S			
					P	O	T	A	T	O		O	R	S		T	A	I	
					A	P	I	N		O	N	O		D	I	R	T		
					S	P	E	A	K	I	N	G	P	A	R	T	S		
					S	S	R	S		A	C	E		T	E	L	E		
					A	G	O		A	T	E		C	L	O	S	E	D	
					L	O	B	S	T	E	R	T	R	A	P	S			
						R	I	B	S		I	A	N		U	G	L	I	
					B	R	I	N	E		J	A	C	K	S	P	R	A	T
					C	H	U	G	S		A	R	K		K	A	I	N	E
					C	O	M	E	T		G	A	S		A	S	P	E	N

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Persepolis ruins locale
- 5 Prickly plants
- 10 Former Supreme Court first name
- 14 iPod model
- 15 Garden nuisance
- 16 Protection org. since 1970
- 17 Lions in the city?
- 19 Slangy sweets
- 20 Pulitzer-winning author Lurie
- 21 Spring
- 23 Conan's network
- 24 Willamette River capital
- 25 Fish with experience?
- 27 UFO fliers, presumably
- 28 _ bath
- 30 Luke and Leia's mother
- 31 Show-offs
- 35 Pats gently
- 36 Bees behind bars?
- 38 Inland Asian sea
- 40 Fixture in some no-parking zones
- 41 Starr man
- 43 One kept on a child at the pool
- 44 Hole goal
- 47 Whales on the run?
- 51 GE rival
- 53 "Alas!" prompter

- 54 Seafarers
- 55 USC athlete
- 56 Novel ending?
- 58 Wolves with a clean lair?
- 60 Miranda _ of "Homeland"
- 61 Dutch cheeses
- 62 Czech track legend Zátöpek
- 63 Zen riddle
- 64 "Building a Mystery" singer McLachlan
- 65 Cook of comedy

DOWN

- 1 If
- 2 Scold harshly
- 3 Wile E. Coyote weapons
- 4 White
- 5 Bo's'n Boss
- 6 Loan fig.
- 7 Put on ice
- 8 Helped through a tough time, with "over"
- 9 Brainstorming session output
- 10 Director Reiner
- 11 Paper with Money and Life sections
- 12 Awesome, slangily
- 13 Bothers
- 18 Public town park
- 22 Narc's find
- 25 "Funny thing is ..."
- 26 "I _ thought of that"
- 29 Home to the Ogden Raptors of MiLB
- 31 Hägar the Horrible's wife
- 32 Med. condition with repetitive behavior
- 33 Hurt in a ring
- 34 Take out, as a vampire
- 36 Italian bacon
- 37 Like difficult push-ups
- 38 "Do you and I need to clear the air?"
- 39 Dish with arborio rice
- 42 Withdraw, with "out"
- 44 _ party
- 45 Aleve rival
- 46 Really get to
- 48 Wasp nest sites
- 49 Red-carpet brand
- 50 NBA great Robertson nicknamed "The Big O"
- 52 Minibike kin
- 55 Derriere
- 57 Long time to wait, facetiously
- 59 Thurman in films

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22		23		
24						25					26			
27					28	29					30			
					31				32	33	34		35	
					36						37			
38	39					40								
41					42				43			44	45	46
47						48	49	50			51	52		
53						54					55			
56						57			58		59			
60									61				62	
63									64					65

What to watch FRIDAY

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Citation

Netflix ■ Original Film

In this drama based on real events, a student in Nigeria takes on the academic establishment when she reports a popular professor who tried to rape her.

Country Ever After

Netflix ■ New Series

This reality series follows country singer Coffey Anderson and his hip-hop dancer wife, Criscilla, as they raise their children and navigate their opposite country vs. city perspectives of life and parenting.

Weird But True!

Disney+ ■ Season Finale

In “Camping,” Carly and Charlie must achieve the rank of master camper, and because they have never personally camped before, they take a trip to Coronado National Forest within Arizona’s Saguaro National Park. There, they get expert advice and begin to fully absorb what it is like to camp and how to become master campers.

College Football: Miami at NC State

ESPN, 6:30 p.m. Live

Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh, North Carolina, is the site of this ACC matchup between the Miami Hurricanes and the NC State Wolfpack.

The Christmas Yule Blog

Lifetime, 7 p.m. ■ Original Film

Caroline Williams, a well-known social media travel writer, is given the assignment to cover a 100-year-old Christmas parade in the small town of Carte De Amor, New Mexico. Not excited about the assignment, Caroline goes anyway and meets a high school music teacher, Oscar Ortiz, who introduces her to a side of Christmas that she has never seen, with different traditions and meanings. In the 12 days before Christmas, Caroline falls in love with Christmas



ANDY SCHLAMP, JESSANDY STUDIOS INC.

CATCH A CLASSIC

TCM Spotlight: Under the Big Top

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

Each Friday night this month, Turner Classic Movies will take you to the circus with a lineup of films set beneath the big top. Things kick off tonight with one of the most epic circus films ever made – Cecil B. DeMille’s Best Picture Oscar-winning **The Greatest Show on Earth (pictured)** (1952), starring Betty Hutton, Cornel Wilde, Charlton Heston, James Stewart and Dorothy Lamour in a fictional story that also incorporates real-life elements from



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Also tonight: the 1928 silent film **The Circus**, written, produced and directed by, and starring, Charlie Chaplin; and **The Big Circus** (1959), starring Victor Mature as a circus owner dealing with financial troubles and an unknown, murderous saboteur.

all over again and finds true love for herself. Stars Sara Canning and Zak Santiago.

Great Performances

PBS, 8 p.m.

In “One Man, Two Guvnors,” revel in this 1960s-era comedy featuring a Tony-winning performance by James Corden. In this adaptation of a 1743 farce, Corden plays a musician turned bodyguard trying to keep his two mobster clients apart, a tricky predicament resulting in comic mayhem.

My Big Italian Adventure

HGTV, 8 p.m.

Lorraine and her team encounter a potentially

devastating setback in the cellar, which is being converted into a ping-pong room. To keep her mind off the issue, Lorraine dives into do-it-yourself projects, including refinishing all the windows in the home and learning how to plaster a wall, and visits a local olive grove with friends.

American Greed: Bonus Edition

CNBC, 9 p.m.

In “Baby-Faced Drug Lords,” the devil is in the new details when young men in Florida cash in on the alarming opioid explosion. But when they expand the operation, it puts their lives of sex, drugs and money in danger.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

In today’s themed deal, South takes inferences from the bidding to form a blueprint of the layout, then plays on the plain suits to add detail to the image. East responds light to his partner’s opener, and South gambles a two-club overcall, emboldened by the favorable vulnerability. West makes a support double to show three spades, and North cue-bids two diamonds as a good raise. South retreats to three clubs, where the matter rests. While three no-trump may have decent chances, playing in the suit gives South time for more detective work. On the spade queen lead, declarer notes that East has exactly four spades. Thus, each defender must have exactly seven major-suit cards. It is just a matter of finding out how many of each minor suit they possess. East has at least three clubs, but there is no harm in investigating before making a committal move. Declarer wins the spade in hand and plays the diamond ace and a second diamond. He wins the heart king continuation in dummy and ruffs a diamond to hand. When East

		NORTH		11-6-A
		♠	K 4 2	
		♥	A 9 3	
		♦	10 5 3 2	
		♣	K 7 3	
		WEST		EAST
		♠	Q J 3	♠ 10 9 8 6
		♥	K Q 10 5	♥ J 7 4
		♦	K J 9 8 4	♦ Q 6
		♣	2	♣ Q 10 5 4
		SOUTH		
		♠	A 7 5	
		♥	8 6 2	
		♦	A 7	
		♣	A J 9 8 6	
		Vulnerable: East-West		
		Dealer: West		

The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
2 ♣	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
3 ♣	Dbl.	2 ♦	Pass
	All pass		

Opening Lead: Spade queen shows out, he is known to hold 4=3=2=4 distribution. South enters dummy with the club king, finesses the club nine, crosses back to the spade king and finesses in clubs again. Had East followed to the third diamond, declarer would have played a club to the jack on the second round, unless East’s third diamond were the king, which would mark West with the club queen. Then, South would play clubs from the top.

LEAD WITH THE ACES

South holds:

♠ Q J 3
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ K J 9 8 4
♣ 2

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	3 ♠
?			

©2020 Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

LOOKING BACK

1861: James Naismith, the inventor of the sport of basketball, was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.

2012: President Barack Obama was elected to a second term of office, defeating Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

2014: the march toward same-sex marriage across the U.S. hit a roadblock when a federal appeals court upheld laws against the practice in four states: Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee.

BIRTHDAYS

Today’s Birthdays: Actor **June Squibb** is 91. Country singer **Stonewall Jackson** is 88. Singer **P.J. Proby** is 82. Jazz musician **Arturo Sandoval** is 71. Model-actor **Rebecca Romijn** is 48. Actor **Zoe McLellan** is 46. Actor **Nicole Dubuc** is 42. Actor **Taryn Manning** is 42. Retired NBA star **Lamar Odom** is 41. Actor **Patina Miller** is 36. Actor **Katie Leclerc** is 34. Actor **Emma Stone** is 32. Actor **Mercedes Kastner** is 31.



PREFER GRIDS? GET TV WEEKLY MAGAZINE
1-877-580-4817 mention code “buzz” tvweekly.com/buzz

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:

I retired a year ago from a stressful job because I couldn't take what it was doing to my health. Despite a divorce after a 35-year marriage 10 years ago, I had recovered financially. I was lucky to have landed a job in my early 30s that had an employer-sponsored 401(k) plan, and I contributed to it for 34 years, putting in as much as I could. I am able to collect enough Social Security and withdraw a small amount from the 401(k) to live as I did when I worked.

I always had hobbies, interests and things I wanted to do but never had time for. I have been very happy and busy ever since. During the quarantine, getting groceries was a bit of a challenge, but I live simply and had no problems.

I am shocked at all the furloughed people who are having fits and complaining that they are bored out of their minds. This should be a wake-up call that they need to get a life. For these people, retirement is going to be really hard. Also, they need to plan for the future and have a six- to



ABBY

12-month emergency fund.

I have put old home movies on DVDs, reorganized photo albums, cleared out a lot of stuff to simplify my life, put in a vegetable garden, made a quilt. COVID or not, I am a busy woman.

Can you encourage all those bored people to learn a new craft, try a new recipe, make a birdhouse, SOMETHING other than call this busy woman and distract me from my projects?

— *Living It Up in New Hampshire*

Dear Living:

No, but YOU should certainly consider doing it. You can also make yourself less available to the complainers by putting your phone on mute during the hours you prefer not to be disturbed.

This is not to say your suggestions aren't good ones, just that I have urged readers for years to prepare well in advance for retirement and discuss with their spouse (if they have one) how the realities of daily living will change when it comes to chores and conserving personal space.

www.DearAbby.com
Andrews McMeel Syndication

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Dear Heloise:

Our town has stopped all plastic grocery bags. I am using reusable bags. I had to trash one. I guess meat leaked in it. The thought of bacteria frightened me. How do we keep these bags clean?

— *Reader, via email*

Reader, reusable bags are an environmentally safe alternative, but according to the American Cleaning Institute (ACI), they need to be cleaned after each use to prevent bacteria and mold from cross-contaminating your food. Some cloth bags can be tossed in the washing



HELOISE

machine. To clean bags that cannot be laundered, spray them with a disinfectant then wipe them down, making sure the seams are free from drips and stains. Dry thoroughly before storing in a cool, dry place, not in your car's trunk, where it's dark and warm.

Use separate bags for raw meats and seafood. Label them clearly for baggers to see at checkout. A good rule of thumb ... when in doubt, wash your bags and throw out bags that are worn or very dirty.

— *Heloise*

Heloise@heloise.com
King Features Syndicate

ARGYLE SWEATER



BIGAR'S STARS

Your Horoscope for Friday, November 6

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★

Today generates mood swings in a loved one. Offer words of encouragement. Be a good listener.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★

Today indicates that you might look for a new vehicle or consider alternative travel and transportation arrangements.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★ Double-check suggestions that others make regarding finances. Today's opposition could allow the actions taken by another to drain your resources.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★

Today generates enthusiasm and motivation. Control impatience and anger though. It is especially important to be constructive in your focus.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Old and poignant memories surface. Past life regression might be useful to aid in understanding and accepting the present situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★

Friends include you in their plans. The expectations of others draw you into group activities or a prominent role within an organization.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★

Today puts a positive spin on your status and career situation. You'll be highly visible. Burn sage to cleanse your workplace.

HOCUS FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man is moved. 2. Words above window are different. 3. Magnifying glass is larger. 4. Paper is longer. 5. Woman is taller. 6. Mouth is different.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★

Today reveals new potentials on the horizon. Your luck is changing for the better. Select goals for the long-range future. Write a wish list.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★

Today will be memorable. Be receptive to growth and change. Don't be surprised by the magnitude of changes brewing. It's a time of turning points.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★

A long-standing partnership, in business or in love, might be ending or a new one beginning. Your imagination and creativity are excellent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★

Today affects your health sector. A dream or intuitive perception brings insight into fitness factors. Seek ways to ease a stressful daily schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★

Today gives you renewed energy and enthusiasm. You'll enjoy sports, creative projects and hobbies. Love and admiration come your way.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY (Nov. 6) ★★★★★

Stimulating, rousing and positive, you get the blood flowing for many. In terms of a project you love, you must not get depressed by its first rejection but try again. If single, be open to changes, because a partnership evolves. If attached, more romantic bliss and happiness are to come. Your partner has a surprise for you. CAPRICORN gives the best gifts.

King Features Syndicate

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



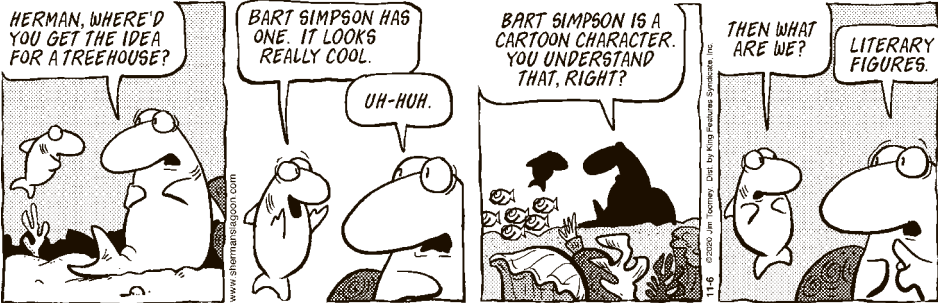
BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



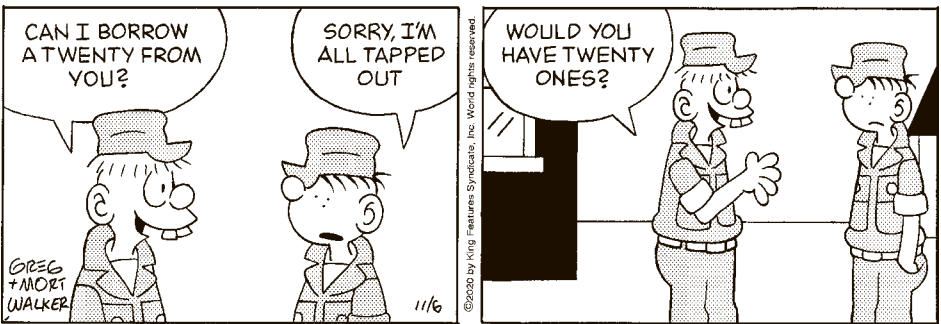
GARFIELD



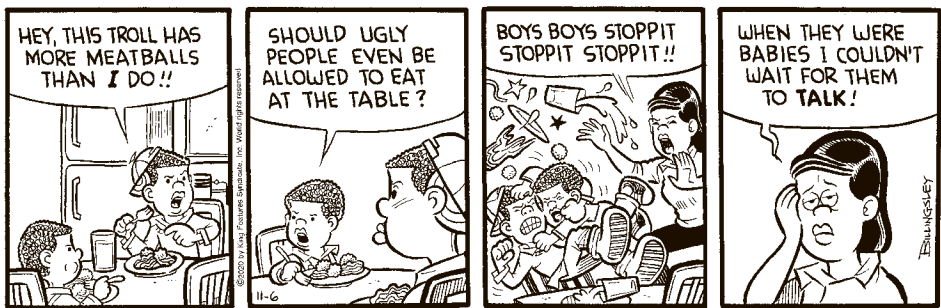
SHERMAN'S LAGOON



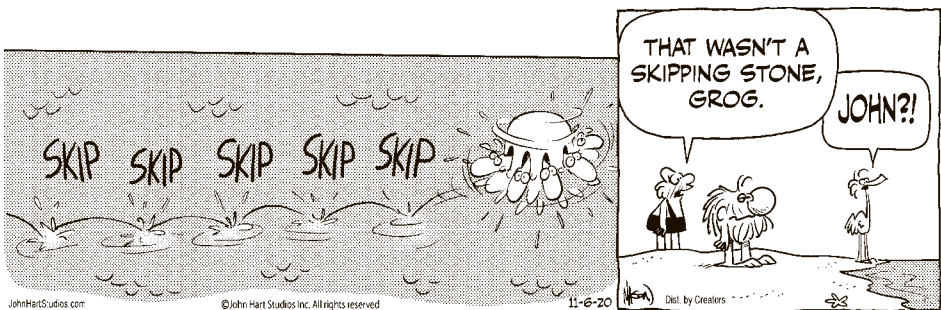
BEETLE BAILEY



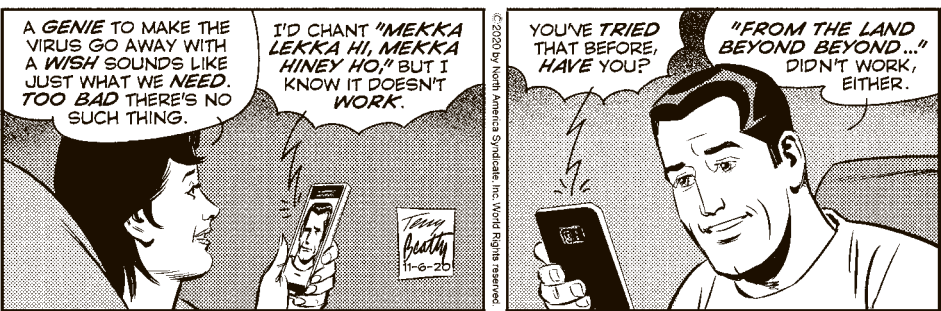
CURTIS



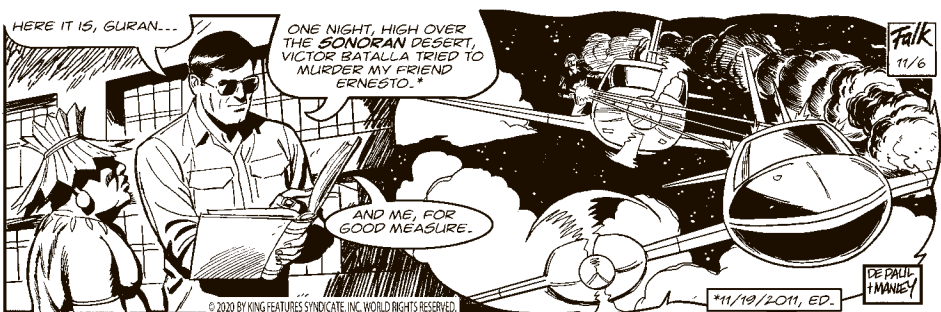
B.C.



REX MORGAN, M.D.



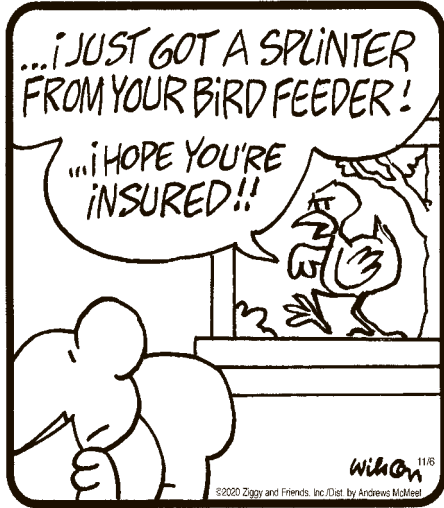
PHANTOM



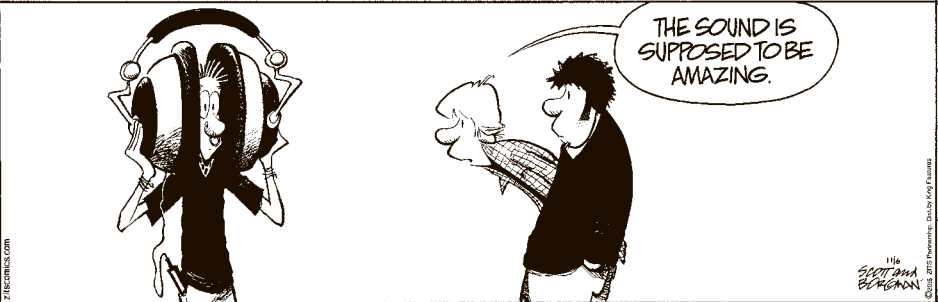
FAMILY CIRCUS



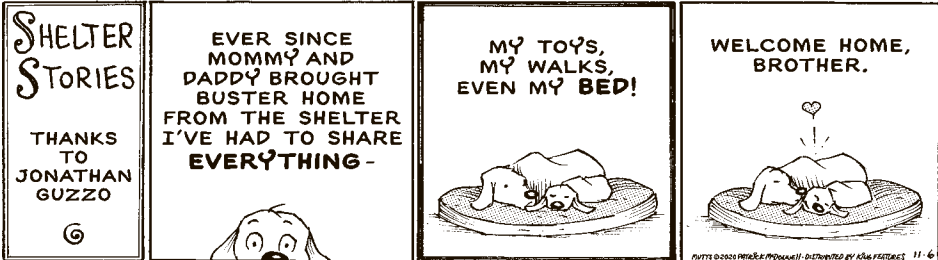
ZIGGY



ZITS



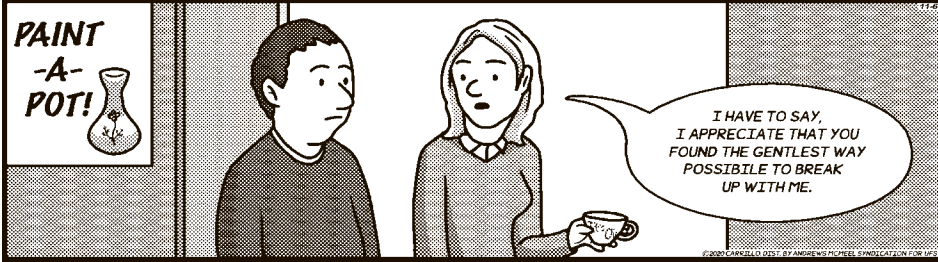
MUTTS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



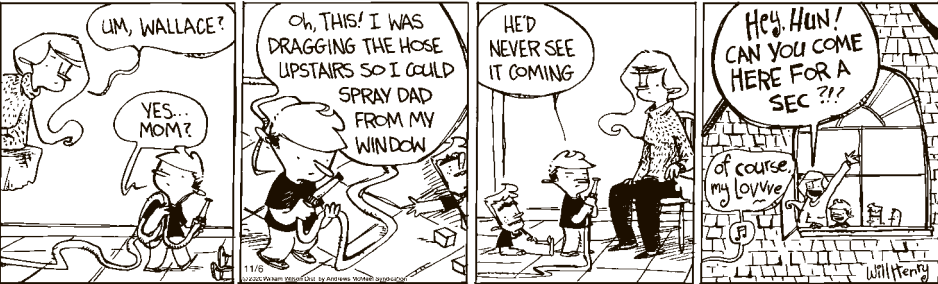
F MINUS



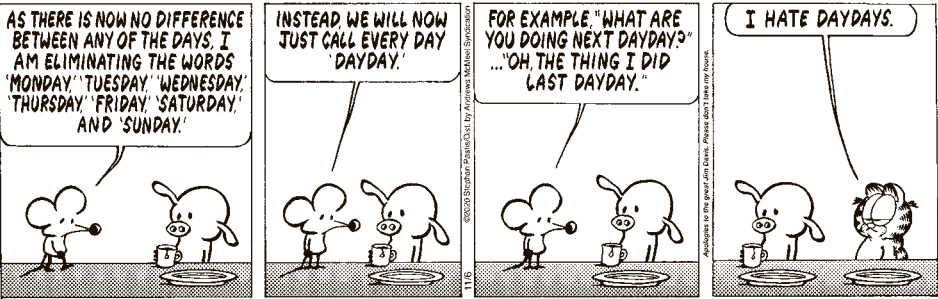
PEANUTS



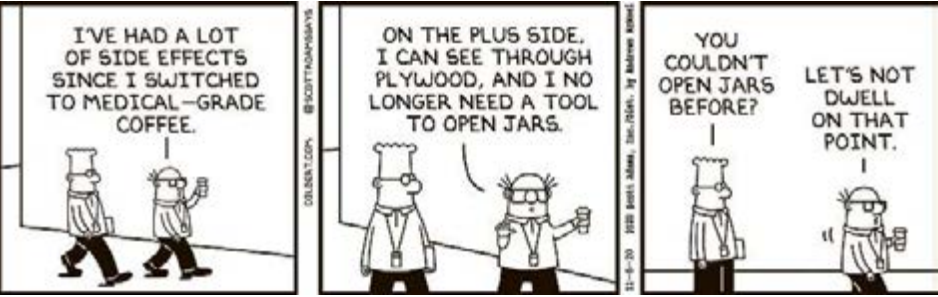
WALLACE THE BRAVE



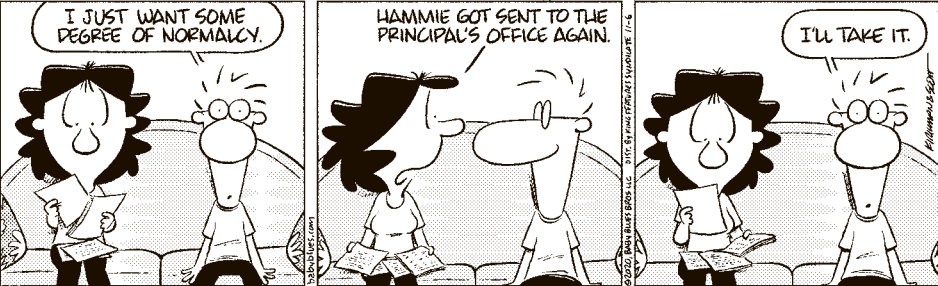
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



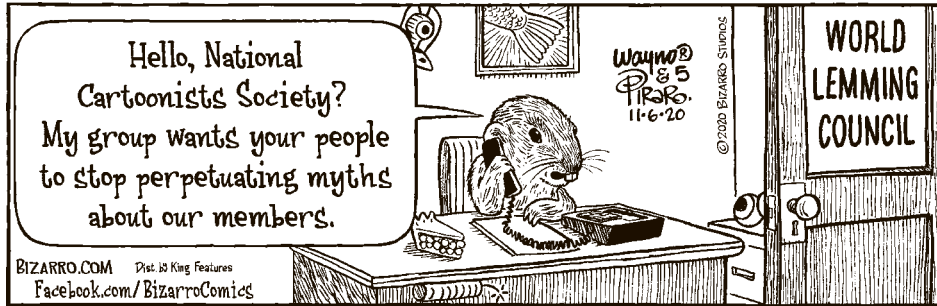
DILBERT



BABY BLUES



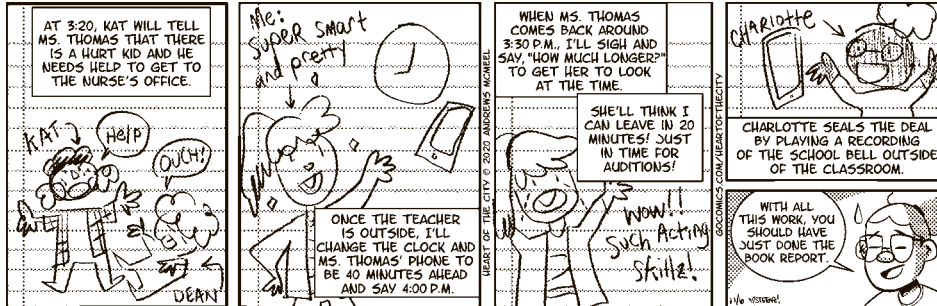
BIZARRO



BLONDIE



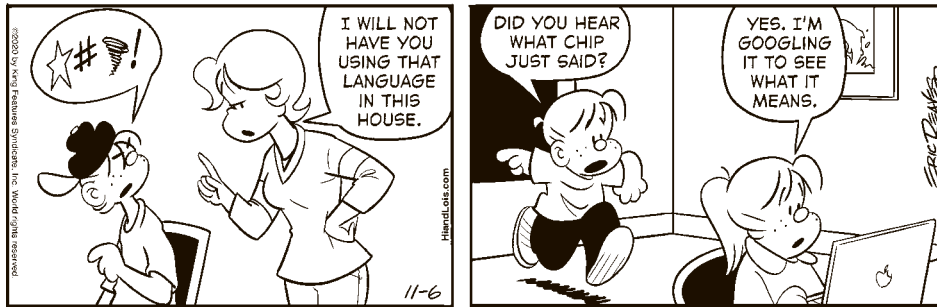
HEART OF THE CITY



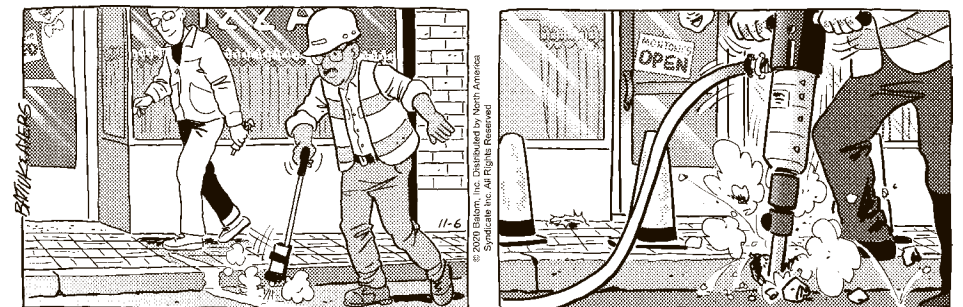
CRANKSHAFT



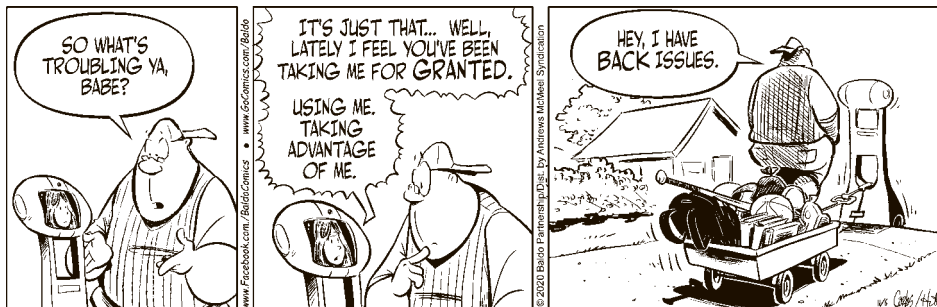
HI & LOIS



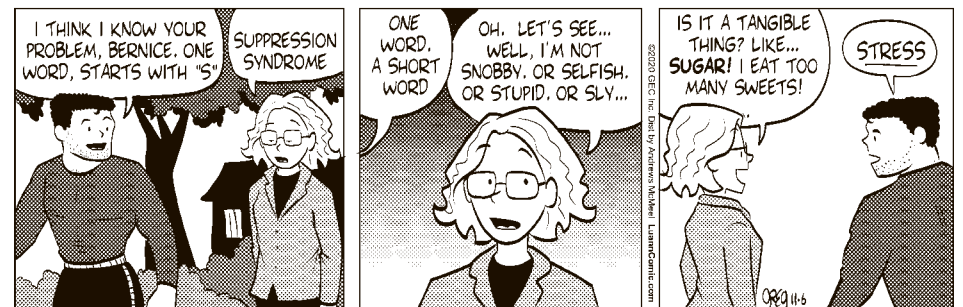
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



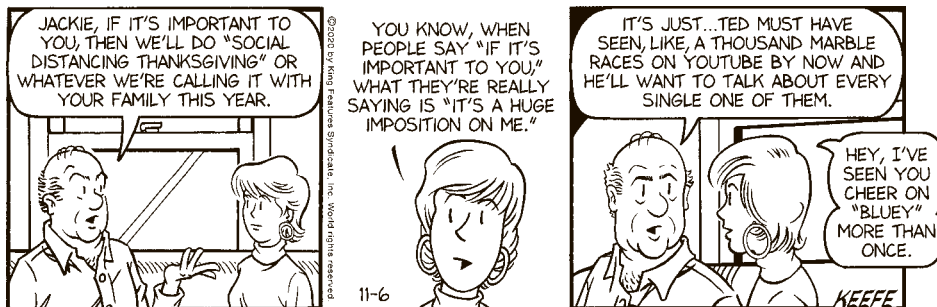
BALDO



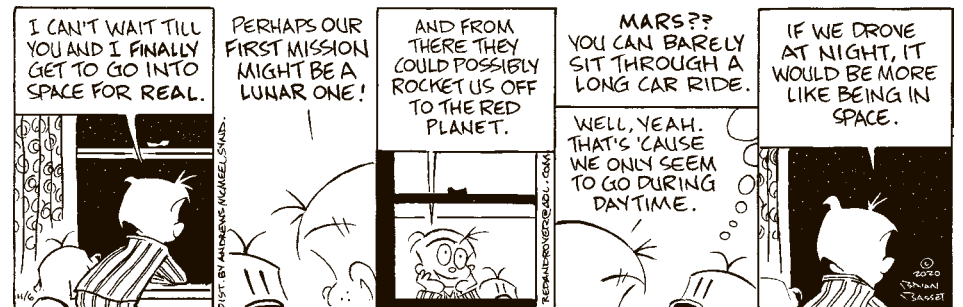
LUANN



SALLY FORTH



RED & ROVER





WIN MORE ON THE
LARGEST GAMING FLOOR IN
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA.



MORE SPACE. MORE GAMES. MORE WAYS TO WIN.

With a huge selection of games and lots of wide-open gaming space, you get to play more of your favorite slots and table games! We're open and ready to play. And we can't wait to see you!



Louisiana's Best Bet!

I-10 EXIT 44 800.584.7263 ccrla.com

Coushatta supports responsible gaming. Call 877.770.7867. Coushatta Casino Resort is owned and operated by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.